Manitoba Conservation

Conservation Manitoba

Annual Report
2008-2009

[illegible]

Manitoba

MINISTER OF CONSERVATION

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

The Honourable Philip S. Lee, C.M., O.M.
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba
Government House
Winnipeg MB R3C 1S4

Your Honour:

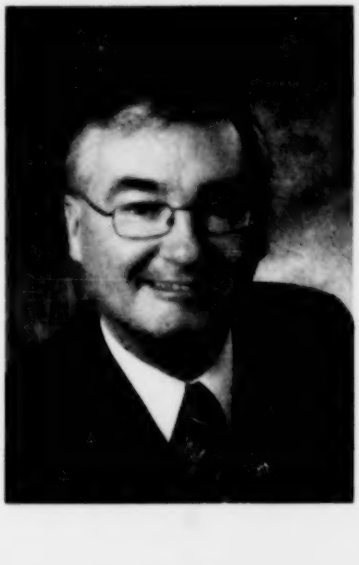
I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report of the Manitoba Department of Conservation for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009.

The report details the Department's many accomplishments and activities as we fulfill our mandate of protecting the environment while sustaining and conserving the abundant natural resources we enjoy as Manitobans.

The Department serves Manitobans and its visitors throughout our vast province and within our diverse ecosystems. We work together with the public to meet the challenges and opportunities of sustainable development.

The staff of Manitoba Conservation is dedicated to providing effective services in our parks, communities and rural and northern areas and I hope the detailed information contained in this Annual Report sheds some light on the results of our programming and the many important related activities that take place on an ongoing basis around the Province.

Respectfully submitted,



Stan Struthers

Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation

Manitoba

Deputy Minister of
Conservation

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada
R3C 0V8

The Honourable Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation
330 Legislative Building
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report of the Manitoba Department of Conservation for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009.

The Department is committed to delivering quality programs and services to protect our environment and manage natural resources in a sustainable way, considering various community interests. The Annual Report provides an overview of the various programs and activities carried out in the 2008/09 fiscal year, highlighting key results that include:

- Participation by many staff in Crown Consultation processes with those people whose Treaty and Aboriginal rights may be impacted by government decisions.

- Implementation of a waste reduction and pollution prevention initiative in provincial parks and campgrounds by supporting recycling activities in Birds Hill and Grand Beach Provincial Parks.

- Continued support for the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation towards the nomination as a World Heritage Site of an area encompassing over 40,000 square kilometers of boreal forest on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

- Enhancing the camping experience in Manitoba through upgrades of sites and expansions of several campgrounds including Wellman Lake and West Hawk Lake in the Whiteshell Provincial Park as well as upgrades to playgrounds at several parks including Birds Hill and Camp Morton.

- Amendments to regulations were initiated under several Acts including *The Crown Lands Act, The Ecological Reserves Act* and *The Polar Bear Protection Act*.

- Continued work to expand the network of protected areas in order to conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity across Manitoba.

Many more highlights and details are contained in the attached report on the Department's operations, activities and results for the 2008/09 fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

DCook

Don Cook
Deputy Minister

LIST OF TABLES 3

HIGHLIGHTS 7

FAITS SAILLANTS 10

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE 13

Minister's Salary 13
Executive Support 13
Corporate Services 13
Financial Services 15
Human Resource Services 16
Information Technology Services 17
Clean Environment Commission 19

SUPPORT SERVICES 20

Computer Graphics 20
Survey Services 21
Distribution Centre 24
Seasonal Support 25

REGIONAL OPERATIONS 26

Northwest Region 35
Northeast Region 37
Central Region 40
Eastern Region 43
Western Region 45
Fire and Emergency Response Program 49
Environmental Services 58
Livestock Operations 58
Environmental Operations 59

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS 61

Divisional Administration 61
Wildlife Enhancement Initiative 61
Parks & Natural Areas 63
Forestry 71
Habitat Enhancement Fund 82
Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection 83
Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund 115
Lands and Geomatics 116

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP 122

Sustainable Resource and Policy Management 122
Corporate Crown Land Policy 127
Environmental Assessment and Licensing 129
Aboriginal Relations 133
Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin 135
Protected Areas Initiative 138
Pollution Prevention 140
Air Quality Management 145

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 147

MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS 148

Equipment 148

Critical Heritage Marshes 148
Park Facilities 149
Cottaging and Camping Initiatives 149
Costs Related to Capital Assets 151

PART B – GENERAL ASSETS 152

PART B – CAPITAL INVESTMENT 152

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATION 153

INTÉGRATION DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE 166

Revenue and Expenditure Summaries 181

PERFORMANCE REPORTING TABLE 188

Tableau d'information sur le rendement 194

The Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act 200

Loi sur les divulgations faites dans l'intérêt public (protection des divulgateurs d'actes répréhensibles) 201

PUBLICATIONS 202

LIST OF TABLES

AF.1 Expenditure, Minister's Salary 13
AF.2 Expenditure, Executive Support 13
AF.3 Expenditure, Corporate Services 14
AF.4 Expenditure, Financial Services 16
AF.5 Employment Equity Representation 17
AF.6 Expenditure, Human Resource Services 17
AF.7 Expenditure, Information Technology Services 18
AF.8 Expenditure, Clean Environment Commission 19

CS.1 Expenditure, Computer Graphics 21
CS.2 Expenditure, Survey Services 23
CS.3 Distribution Centre 24
CS.4 Seasonal Support 25

RO.1 Livestock Regulation Enforcement 1998/99 to 2008/09 29
RO.2 Environmental Programs Enforcement 29
RO.3 Common Violations under *The Provincial Parks Act* 30
RO.4 Common Violations under *The Wildlife Act* 30
RO.5 Common Violations under *The FisheriesAct* (Canada) and *The Fisheries Act* (Manitoba) 31
RO.6 Comparison of Wildlife, Fisheries, Parks and Migratory Birds Prosecutions 1999/00 to 2008/09 31
RO.7 Record of Violations Occurring 2008/09 32
RO.8 Hunter and Firearm Safety Program 1999-2008 32
RO.9 Firearm Accidents 1964-2008, 5-year Averages 33
RO.10 Firearm Accidents 1999-2008 33
RO.11 Hunter-Killed Livestock Compensation 1999/00 to 2008/09 33
RO.12 Problem Wildlife Occurrences 2008/09 34
RO.13 T.I.P. Calls by Region 2008/09 34
RO.14 T.I.P. Calls by Year, 2000/01 to 2008/09 34
RO.15 Expenditure, Regional Support Services 35
RO.16 Expenditure, Northwest Region 37
RO.17 Expenditure, Northeast Region 40
RO.18 Expenditure, Central Region 43
RO.19 Expenditure, Eastern Region 45
RO.20 Expenditure, Western Region 48
RO.21 Park Operations and Maintenance 49
RO.22 Number of Fires and Area Burned by Region and Cause 53
RO.23 Number of Fires and Area Burned by Priority Zone and Action Status 54
RO.24 2008 Area Burned by Priority Zone 54
RO.25 Expenditure, Fire and Emergency Response Program 57
RO.26 Livestock Operations Support 59
RO.27 Expenditure, Environmental Operations 60

CP.1 Expenditure, Divisional Administration 61

WH.1 Expenditure, Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative 62

PA.1 Expenditure, Parks & Natural Areas 70

FO.1 Forest Renewal Activities 77
FO.2 Expenditure, Forestry Branch 81

HE.1 Expenditure, Habitat Enhancement Fund 82

WI.1 Wildlife Permits Issued, 2008 85
WI.2 Deer Hunting Licences Sold 90
WI.3 Resident Hunter Big Game Harvest 94
WI.4 Problem Beaver Removal Program Summary 2002-2009 95
WI.5 Fur Statistics, Year ending August 31, 2008 99
WI.6 Trappers and Value of Wild Fur Production 1998/99 to 2007/087 100
WI.7 Hunting Licences Sold 2008/09 101
WI.8 Hunting Licence Sales and Revenue 1999/00 to 2008/09 102
WI.9 Wildlife Licence Revenue 2008/09 102
WI.10 Summary of information in Manitoba Conservation Data Centre's Biotics Database 109
WI.11 Expenditure, Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection Branch 114

SC.1 Expenditure, Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund 115

LA.1 Treaty Land Entitlement Status 118
LA.2 Expenditure, Lands and Geomatics 121

ES.1 Expenditure, Divisional Administration 122

SR.1 Expenditure, Sustainable Resource Management 127

CLP.1 Expenditure, Corporate Crown Land Policy Unit 128

EA.1 Environmental Assessment and Licensing Activities 130
EA.2 Suspensions or Variations under *The Environment Act* 2008-2009 131
EA.3 Expenditure, Environmental Assessment and Licencing 132

AR.1 Expenditure, Aboriginal Relations 134

WA.1 Expenditure, Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin 137

PR.1 Expenditure, Protected Areas 140

PP.1 Residential Recycling Statistics 141
PP.2 Product from MB Scrap Tires in 2008 142
PP.3 Used Oil Products Recycled/Collected 142
PP.4 Expenditure, Pollution Prevention 144

AQ.1 Air Quality Activities 145
AQ.2 Expenditure, Air Quality Management 146

IISD.1 Expenditure, International Institute for Sustainable Development 147

IM.1 Expenditure, Equipment 148
IM.2 Expenditure, Critical Heritage Marshes 149
IM.3 Expenditure, Park Facilities 149
IM.4 Expenditure, Cottaging and Camping Initiatives 150

ACA.1 Expenditure, Costs Related to Capital Assets 151

RE.1 Reconciliation Statement 181
RE.2 Revenue Summary by Source 182
RE.3 Expenditure Summary 183
RE.4 Five-Year Expenditure and Staffing Summary by Appropriation 187

LIST OF FIGURES

1. Organization Chart ....
2. Organigramme 6
3. Fire Priority Zones 2008 5
4. Number of Fires, 1999-2008 5
5. Area Burned, 1999-2008 5
6. Game Hunting Areas 8
7. Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas 13

MANITOBA CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATION CHART
AS OF APRIL 1. 2009

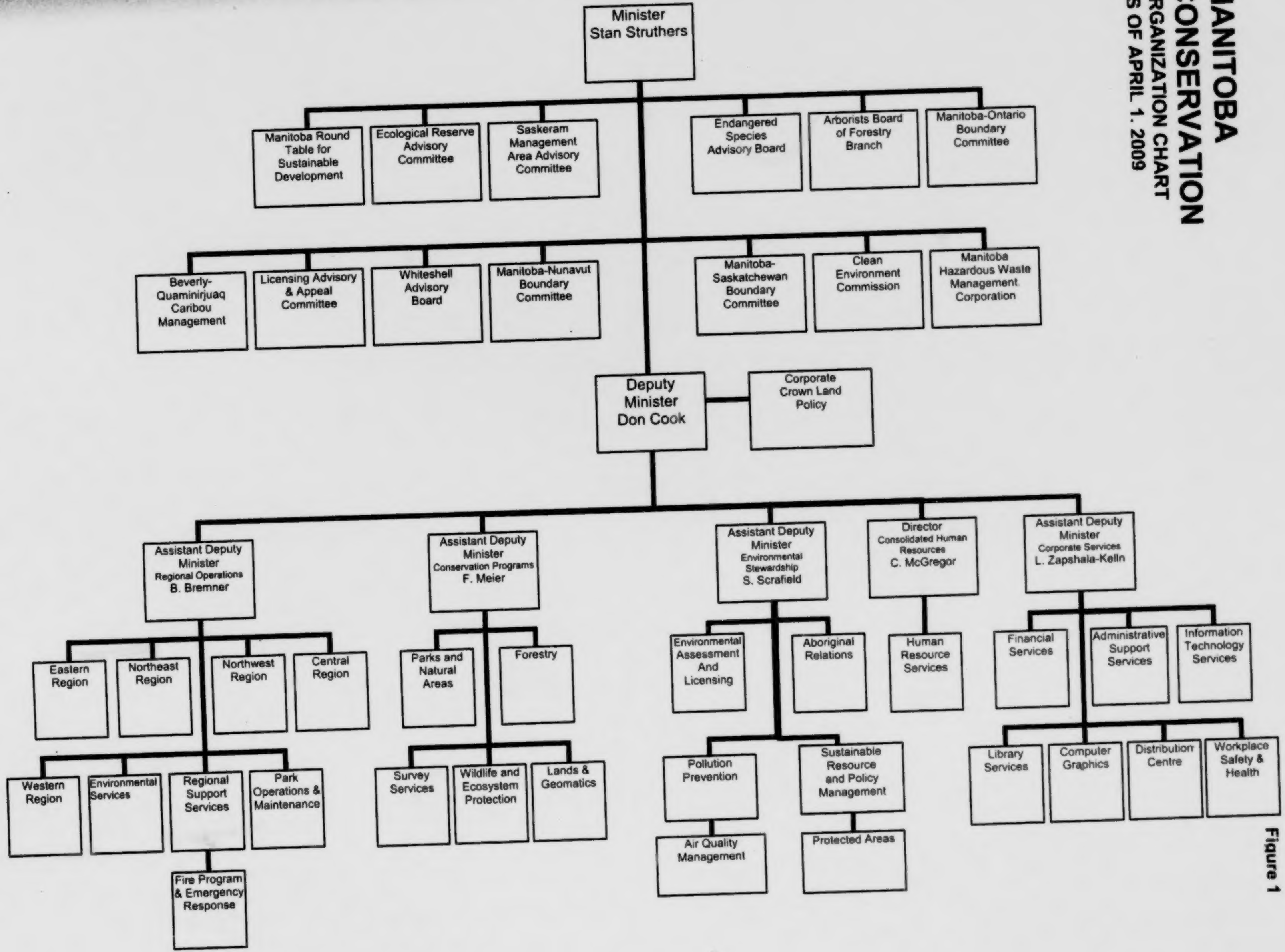

Minister
Stan Struthers
Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development
Ecological Reserve Advisory Committee
Saskeram Management Area Advisory Committee
Endangered Species Advisory Board
Arborists Board of Forestry Branch
Manitoba-Ontario Boundary Committee
Beverly-Quaminirjuaq Caribou Management
Licensing Advisory & Appeal Committee
Whiteshell Advisory Board
Manitoba-Nunavut Boundary Committee
Manitoba-Saskatchewan Boundary Committee
Clean Environment Commission
Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management. Corporation
Deputy Minister
Don Cook
Corporate Crown Land Policy
Assistant Deputy Minister
Regional Operations
B. Bremner
Eastern Region
Northeast Region
Northwest Region
Central Region
Western Region
Environmental Services
Regional Support Services
Park Operations & Maintenance
Fire Program & Emergency Response
Assistant Deputy Minister
Conservation Programs
F. Meier
Parks and Natural Areas
Forestry
Survey Services
Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection
Lands & Geomatics
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship
S. Scrafield
Environmental Assessment And Licensing
Aboriginal Relations
Pollution Prevention
Air Quality Management
Sustainable Resource and Policy Management
Protected Areas
Director
Consolidated Human Resources
C. McGregor
Human Resource Services
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate Services
L. Zapshala-Kelln
Financial Services
Administrative Support Services
Information Technology Services
Library Services
Computer Graphics
Distribution Centre
Workplace Safety & Health

Figure 1

CONSERVATION MANITOBA

ORGANIGRAMME

En vigueur 1ER Avril 1, 2009

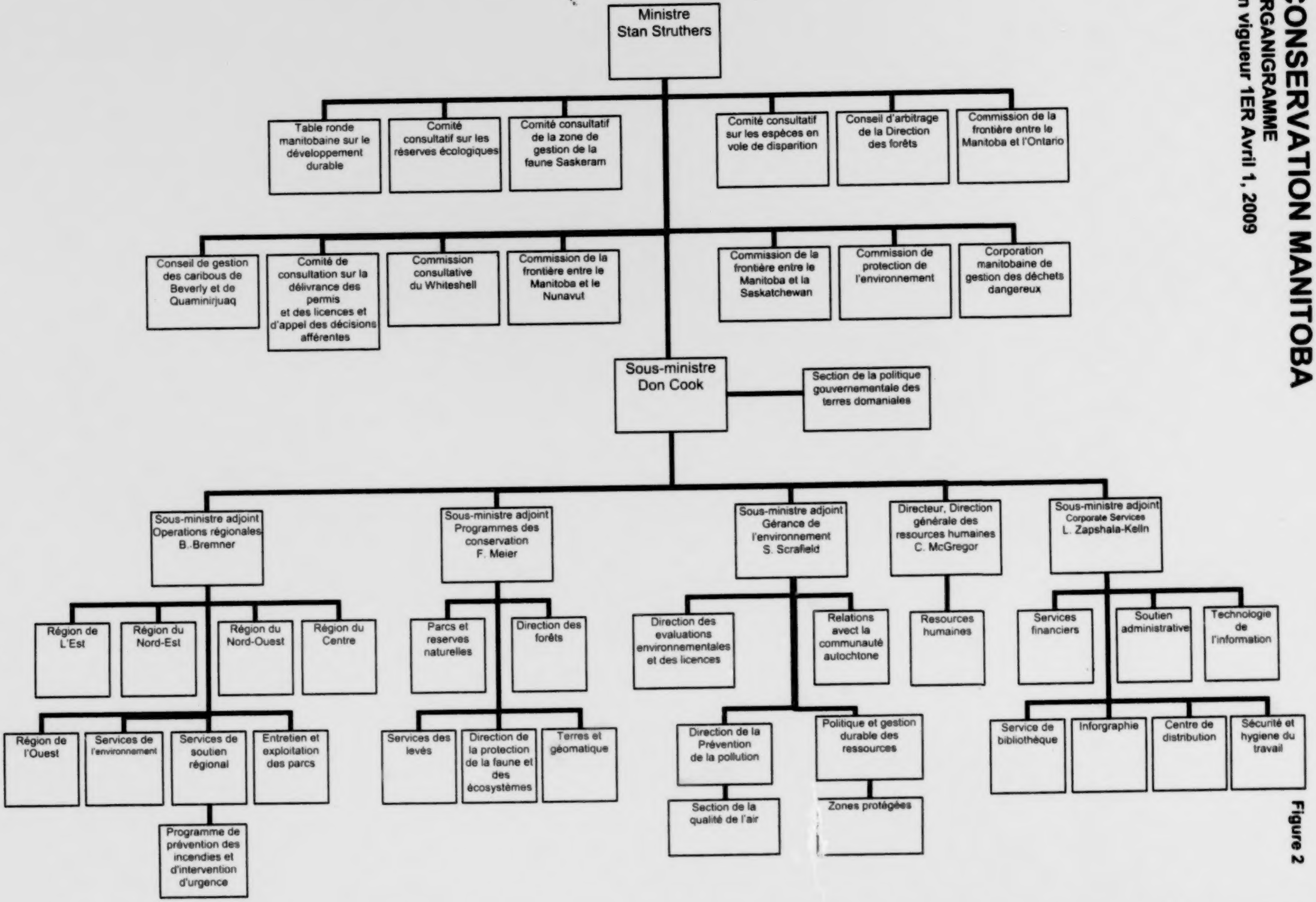

Ministre
Stan Struthers
Table ronde manitobaine sur le développement durable
Comité consultatif sur les réserves écologiques
Comité consultatif de la zone de gestion de la faune Saskeram
Comité consultatif sur les espèces en voie de disparition
Conseil d'arbitrage de la Direction des forêts
Commission de la frontière entre le Manitoba et l'Ontario
Conseil de gestion des caribous de Beverly et de Quaminirjuaq
Comité de consultation sur la délivrance des permis et des licences et d'appel des décisions afférentes
Commission consultative du Whiteshell
Commission de la frontière entre le Manitoba et le Nunavut
Commission de la frontière entre le Manitoba et la Saskatchewan
Commission de protection de l'environnement
Corporation manitobaine de gestion des déchets dangereux
Sous-ministre
Don Cook
Section de la politique gouvernementale des terres domaniales
Sous-ministre adjoint
Operations régionales
B. Bremner
Sous-ministre adjoint
Programmes des conservation
F. Meier
Sous-ministre adjoint
Gérance de l'environnement
S. Scrafield
Directeur, Direction générale des resources humaines
C. McGregor
Sous-ministre adjoint
Corporate Services
L. Zapshala-Kelln
Région de L'Est
Région du Nord-Est
Région du Nord-Ouest
Région du Centre
Région de l'Ouest
Services de l'environnement
Services de soutien régional
Entretien et exploitation des parcs
Programme de prévention des incendies et d'intervention d'urgence
Parcs et reserves naturelles
Direction des forêts
Services des levés
Direction de la protection de la faune et des écosystèmes
Terres et géomatique
Direction des evaluations environnementales et des licences
Relations avect la communauté autochtone
Direction de la Prévention de la pollution
Section de la qualité de l'air
Politique et gestion durable des ressources
Zones protégées
Resources humaines
Services financiers
Soutien administrative
Technologie de l'information
Service de bibliothèque
Inforgraphie
Centre de distribution
Sécurité et hygiene du travail

Figure 2

HIGHLIGHTS

Parks & Natural Areas

Enhancements under the Provincial Camping Initiative continued. West Hawk Lake and Toniata campgrounds in Whiteshell Provincial Park received significant upgrades, and access to electrical service was added to a camping bay in Turtle Mountain Provincial Park. In addition, construction was initiated on a major expansion of Wellman Lake campground in Duck Mountain Provincial Park. Construction also began on yurts at Stephenfield and Camp Morton Provincial Parks, and new Family Vacation Cabins at Hecla Provincial Park. Playground upgrades occurred at several locations around the province.

Protected Areas Initiative

New Protected Areas	Area (hectares)	Protected Under
Duff Roblin Provincial Park (formerly a park reserve)	32	*The Provincial Parks Act*
Nature Conservancy of Canada Lands Addition	2,285	Memorandum of Agreement
Observation Point Wildlife Management Area	6,010	*The Wildlife Act*
Whitemouth Bog Ecological Reserve	5,020	*The Ecological Reserves Act*
Whitemouth Bog Wildlife Management Area	3,010	*The Wildlife Act*

Establishment of the Manitoba-Ontario Interprovincial Wilderness Area in June 2008, fulfilling a commitment of the Atikaki Provincial Park Management Plan.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

Hunting continues to play an important role for Manitobans. The 3,700 youth hunting licences sold in Manitoba will ensure that our hunting heritage will continue in the future. In addition to the youth licences, the demand by residents for hunting opportunities continued to be strong. In total approximately 55,650 deer, 11,450 game bird, 4,550 moose, 2,700 elk, 1,550 bear and 720 caribou licences were sold to Manitoba residents in 2008/09.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch, in consultation with the municipalities around Winnipeg, developed a Near-Urban Wildlife Strategy to address human safety and property damage concerns, as well as to maintain and expand hunting opportunities in the near-urban area. This is an ongoing program with future emphasis directed at managing the expanding wildlife populations and related human/wildlife conflicts in the urban-agricultural setting around Winnipeg.

The Department continued its participation in the Action Plan for Bovine Tuberculosis Management in Manitoba and increased surveillance for Chronic Wasting Disease.

Nester One, the Department's camp at Cape Churchill received $82,000 from the Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund, which was created by the federal government (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada) to upgrade key arctic research facilities.

The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch continued to participate in the Manitoba Game Bird Hunting Partnership with non-government organizations to address game bird issues.

Manitoba participated with Environment Canada and other provincial and territorial representatives as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the development of a document on the identification of critical habitat for boreal woodland caribou and continues to participate at the national level in finalizing the aforementioned.

Watchable Wildlife sites at Oak Hammock Marsh and Whitewater Lake Wildlife Management Areas were enhanced through the development of new trails for birders and islands for shorebirds and waterfowl.

A public-private partnership with a broadly-based group of conservation organizations to restore Delta Marsh continued to make progress. Survey work and soil testing, necessary for the design of structures to exclude adult common carp from the marsh, was completed. Pre-project monitoring and baseline data collection continued.

In 2008/09, $968,165 in federal funding was received for all Habitat Stewardship Program projects in Manitoba. Matching funds and in-kind contributions totaling $1,567,400 were provided by the Province, conservation agencies, industry and community groups in support of these projects.

Development of the first mapped occurrences in the Conservation Data Centre (CDC) database for Polar Bear dens in Wapusk National Park, based on provincial flight surveys from the 1970s – an important baseline data set for assessing the effects of climate change on this threatened species.

Two new locations for Gattinger's Agalinis were uncovered, bringing the total in the province to three. This plant was first found in Manitoba in 2007, and is listed as Endangered in Canada under *The Species at Risk Act (SARA)*.

The CDC and Manitoba Hydro developed a provincial-scale map of Manitoba's species at risk, for broad-level screening by Manitoba Hydro staff working in the vicinity of their generating facilities.

Aboriginal Relations

Established a mutually beneficial partnership aimed at reconciling the Treaty relationship between the Crown and First Nation Peoples through the signing of the *Widokidadiwin: Partnership Agreement between the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba and Manitoba Conservation: November 19th, 2008.*

Established and implemented the *Speakers Bureau Workshop Series* to provide a forum for Department staff to hear presentations on the current issues surrounding First Nation and Aboriginal people. The series is designed to provide an opportunity for Department staff to be informed and understand the history of the various issues.

Participated in the implementation of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation Joint Resource Management Agreement and establishment of the Resource Management Board.

Discussed with Aboriginal leaders, communities and individuals the formation dialogue forums and communication processes between the Department and Manitoba Aboriginal communities.

Environmental Services

The Environmental Remediation Program completed its assessment phase and identified $103.4 million in potential environmental liabilities for which the Department is or may become responsible for remediation.

A new centrally delivered Engineering Section was established to provide engineering support for regional staff across the province.

Air Quality

The new Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) for Winnipeg was implemented for public launch in spring 2009.

Soil improvement activities at two priority parks/playgrounds in Flin Flon were initiated.

Pollution Prevention

Regulated programs under *The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act* recycled 96,846 tonnes of material in 2008/09, including 10,161 tonnes of rubber from scrap tires, 70,338 tonnes of packaging and paper through municipal recycling programs and 16,347 tonnes of used oil products – an increase of 2,622 tonnes from 2007/08.

A new Tire Stewardship Program began operating in April 2008 and the *Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation* was passed in December 2008.

Refrigerant Management Canada (RMC), a national voluntary industry stewardship organization collects and safely disposes of obsolete and surplus Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). In 2008/09 1,622,723 kilograms of high and low pressure refrigerants and 1,462,824 kilograms of refrigerant waste were processed.

Recycling programs were implemented in Birds Hill and Grand Beach Provincial Parks.

FAITS SAILLANTS

Parcs et réserves naturelles

On a continué à faire des améliorations en vertu de l'initiative provinciale de développement des emplacements de camping. On a apporté des améliorations importantes aux campings de West Hawk Lake et de Toniata dans le parc provincial du Whiteshell, et on a ajouté l'accès au service électrique dans une baie d'un camping du parc provincial de Turtle Mountain. En outre, on a commencé la construction d'un agrandissement majeur au camping Wellman Lake dans le parc provincial de Duck Mountain. On a aussi commencé la construction de yourtes aux parcs provinciaux de Stephenfield et de Camp Morton, ainsi que de chalets familiaux au parc provincial d'Hecla. Des améliorations des terrains de jeu ont eu lieu à plusieurs emplacements un peu partout dans la province.

Initiative des zones protégées

Nouvelles zones protégées	Superficie (ha)	Dispositions prévoyant la protection
Parc provincial Duff-Roblin (anciennement une réserve de parc)	32	*Loi sur les parcs provinciaux*
Terres additionnelles gérées par Conservation de la nature Canada	2 285	Convention
Zone de gestion de la faune du belvédère	6 010	*Loi sur la conservation de la faune*
Réserve écologique du marais Whitemouth	5 020	*Loi sur les réserves écologiques*
Zone de gestion de la faune du marais Whitemouth	3 010	*Loi sur la conservation de la faune*

Le Ministère a établi la zone interprovinciale à l'état naturel du Manitoba et de l'Ontario en juin 2008, respectant ainsi son engagement à l'égard du plan de gestion du parc provincial Atikaki.

Protection de la faune et des écosystèmes

La chasse continue à jouer un rôle important pour les Manitobains et Manitobaines. Les 3 700 permis de chasse pour jeunes vendus au Manitoba feront en sorte que notre patrimoine en matière de chasse soit maintenu dans l'avenir. En plus de ces ventes de permis pour jeunes, la demande de possibilités de chasse par les résidents a continué d'être forte. En tout, les ventes de permis de chasse aux résidents du Manitoba en 2008/09 se répartissent comme suit : environ 55 650 pour le cerf, 11 450 pour le gibier à plumes, 4 550 pour l'orignal, 2 700 pour le wapiti, 1 550 pour l'ours et 720 pour le caribou.

En consultation avec les municipalités autour de Winnipeg, la Direction de la protection de la faune et des écosystèmes a conçu une stratégie de contrôle de la faune en milieu périurbain pour répondre aux préoccupations concernant la sécurité des personnes et des biens, et pour maintenir et augmenter les possibilités de chasse dans les zones périurbaines. Il s'agit d'un programme continu qui dans l'avenir mettra l'accent sur la gestion des populations d'espèces sauvages en expansion et sur les conflits qui en découlent avec les êtres humains dans les régions urbaines et agricoles autour de Winnipeg.

Le Ministère a continué à participer au Plan d'action pour la gestion de la tuberculose bovine au Manitoba et a accru ses activités de surveillance en ce qui concerne la maladie du dépérissement chronique.

Le camp du ministère à Cape Churchill, Nestor One, a reçu 82 000 $ de la part du Fonds pour l'infrastructure de recherche dans l'Arctique, créé par le gouvernement fédéral (Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada) afin de moderniser des installations de recherche essentielles dans l'Arctique.

La Direction de la protection de la faune et des écosystèmes a continué à participer au Manitoba Game Bird Hunting Partnership avec des organismes non gouvernementaux en vue de traiter les questions relatives au gibier à plumes.

Conjointement avec Environnement Canada, des représentants provinciaux et territoriaux ainsi que des organisations non gouvernementales, le Manitoba a participé à l'élaboration d'un document portant sur la détermination des habitats essentiels du caribou des bois dans les régions boréales et continue à participer à l'échelon national aux étapes finales de ce document.

Les sites d'observation de la faune dans les zones de gestion de la faune du marais d'Oak Hammock et du lac Whitewater ont été améliorés grâce à de nouveaux sentiers pour les ornithologues et de nouvelles îles pour les oiseaux de rivage et la sauvagine.

Un partenariat public-privé avec un groupe composé d'organismes de conservation diversifiés ayant pour but de restaurer le marais Delta a continué à faire des progrès. Les travaux d'arpentage et d'analyse du sol, nécessaires à la conception de structures qui serviront à exclure la carpe commune adulte du marais, ont été terminés. On a poursuivi les activités de surveillance préliminaire et de collecte de données de référence.

En 2008/09, 968 165 $ ont été accordés par le gouvernement fédéral pour des projets entrepris au Manitoba dans le cadre du Programme de conservation et de gérance de l'habitat. En soutien à ces projets, le gouvernement provincial, des organismes de conservation, l'industrie et des groupes communautaires ont versé au total 1 567 400 $ sous forme de fonds de contrepartie et de contributions en nature.

On cartographie les premières occurrences de tanières d'ours polaires au parc national du Canada Wapusk dans la base de données du Centre de données sur la conservation, se fondant sur la surveillance aérienne provinciale effectuée dans les années 1970, qui constitue un important ensemble de données de référence afin d'évaluer les effets du changement climatique sur cette espèce menacée.

On a découvert deux autres endroits où l'on trouve la gérardie de Gattinger au Manitoba, portant le nombre total dans la province à trois. On a observé cette plante pour la première fois au Manitoba en 2007. Elle est inscrite comme espèce en voie de disparition au Canada en vertu de la *Loi sur les espèces en péril*.

Le Centre de données sur la conservation et Manitoba Hydro ont élaboré une carte de la province sur laquelle figure les espèces en péril du Manitoba pour permettre au personnel de Manitoba Hydro travaillant dans les environs des installations de production d'obtenir des renseignements de niveau général.

Relations avec la communauté autochtone

- On a établi un partenariat mutuellement bénéfique qui vise à améliorer les rapports fondés sur les traités entre la Couronne et les Premières nations grâce à la signature de *Widokidadiwin: Partnership Agreement between the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba and Manitoba Conservation: November 19th, 2008* (entente de partenariat entre la Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba et Conservation Manitoba : le 19 novembre 2008).
- On a conçu et mis en œuvre une série d'ateliers du Bureau des conférenciers afin de fournir aux membres du personnel du ministère un endroit où ils peuvent assister à des présentations sur les questions actuelles relatives aux Premières nations et aux Autochtones. La série est conçue pour offrir au personnel du ministère la possibilité de s'informer sur différentes questions et d'en comprendre le contexte.
- On a participé à la mise en œuvre de l'entente conjointe sur la gestion des ressources avec la nation crie Opaskwayak ainsi qu'à l'établissement du conseil de gestion des ressources.
- On s'est entretenu avec des leaders, des communautés et des individus autochtones sur les forums de discussion et les processus de communication entre le ministère et les communautés autochtones du Manitoba.

Services environnementaux

- Le programme d'assainissement de l'environnement a terminé l'étape d'évaluation et a déterminé que le ministère est ou pourrait devenir responsable de 103,4 millions de dollars en passif environnemental potentiel.
- On a établi une nouvelle section de l'ingénierie, à gestion centralisée, qui fournira un soutien technique au personnel des régions partout dans la province.

Qualité De L'air

- Le lancement public de la nouvelle cote air santé de Winnipeg a eu lieu au printemps 2009.
- On a entamé des activités d'amélioration du sol à deux parcs prioritaires à Flin Flon.

Prévention De La Pollution

- Les programmes réglementés en vertu de la *Loi sur la réduction du volume et de la production des déchets* ont permis de recycler 96 846 tonnes de matériel en 2008-2009, y compris 10 161 tonnes de caoutchouc provenant de pneus de rebut, 70 338 tonnes d'emballage et de papier grâce aux programmes de recyclage municipaux, et 16 347 tonnes de produits d'huile usée. Cela constitue une augmentation de **2 622** tonnes par rapport à 2007-2008.
- Un nouveau Programme de gestion des pneus a été lancé en avril 2008 et le *Règlement sur la gestion des emballages et des imprimés* a été adopté en décembre 2008.
- Le Programme canadien de gestion des réfrigérants, un organisme national de gestion créé par l'industrie, récupère et élimine les substances appauvrissant la couche d'ozone qui sont périmées ou de surplus. En 2008-2009, 1 622 723 kilogrammes de réfrigérants à haute et à basse pression et 1 462 824 kilogrammes de déchets de réfrigérants ont été traités.
- Des programmes de recyclage ont été mis en œuvre dans les parcs provinciaux de Birds Hill et de Grand Beach.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The Administration and Finance Division provides executive management of programs and management services, including financial, human resource, information technology, and administrative support.

Minister's Salary

The Minister's salary provides the Minister with additional compensation to which an individual appointed to Executive Council is entitled.

Table AF.1
12.1(a) Minister's Salary

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Estimate 2008/09		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	45	1.00	45	0	
Total 12.1(a)	**45**	**1.00**	**45**	**0**	

Executive Support

This area comprises support staff in the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister of Conservation.

The purpose of Executive Support is to develop, implement and oversee policies and programs that are designed to attain, over the long term, the goals set in the Department's vision and mission statements; advise the Minister on matters relating to the Department; provide policy direction for departmental programs; coordinate departmental communications, activities, and initiatives; and provide administrative support for the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister.

Table AF.2
12.1(b) Executive Support

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Estimate 2008/09		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	649	10.00	640	9	
Other Expenditures	130		179	(48)	
Total 12.1(b)	**779**	**10.00**	**818**	**(39)**	

Corporate Services

Corporate Services Division provides shared services for the departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship, including: administrative; financial; safety, health and risk management; equipment warehousing; library and public information services; and information technology services. Human Resource services are also provided through a service shared with other departments.

Administrative services includes fleet vehicle coordination, office accommodation and parking administration, environmental impact file searches, records management, coordination of departmental French language services, and compliance with *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*

The Safety, Health and Risk Management section provides leadership, direction and support to departmental staff and senior management on compliance with recognized standards in these areas through policies, monitoring and training.

The Conservation and Environment Library supports access to print and electronic specialized information resources for Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Water Stewardship, Environment Canada in Winnipeg, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, and the public. Interlibrary loans are coordinated with other Libraries and Educational Institutions. Current information related to the mandates of each partner organization is made available to staff and to the public.

The departmental warehouse is the equipment/supply storage and mobilization point for branches and the Fire Operations Centre. In emergencies, such as fire and flood, the warehouse becomes the logistical support base for all equipment.

Key Results Achieved:

In the 2008 calendar year, 249 requests for information were processed under *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*

In the 2008/09 year, the library responded to over 3,000 requests for information both from staff and the public, and over 1,080 items were added to the physical collection.

The Department continues to implement its French Language Services Plan to reflect current operations and in keeping with the *Chartier Report* on French Language Services. Translation of documents and the website as well as participation in the Bilingual Service Centres continues.

A total of 662 environmental file searches on listed properties within the province of Manitoba were completed, generating revenue of $62,226.

The Safety, Health and Risk Management program began to implement the directions of the policy manual distributed in the previous year as well as identifying other areas of need.

Table AF.3
12.1(c) Corporate Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	**Actual 2008/09**	**Estimate 2008/09**		**Variance Over/(Under)**	**Expl. No.**
	$(000)	**FTE**	**$(000)**	**$(000)**	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	986	17.00	1,065	(79)	
Other Expenditures	1,405		1,476	(71)	
Total 12.1(c)	**2,391**	**17.00**	**2,541**	**(150)**	

Financial Services

The Financial Services Branch develops, communicates, monitors and evaluates departmental financial policies, systems, processes and procedures to ensure the effective, efficient and economical operation of departmental financial functions in compliance with requirements of the Department, Treasury Board, the Department of Finance and the Office of the Auditor General.

Key Results Achieved:

The Branch provided financial support and leadership to all branches, regions, and business units of the departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship, including:

- timely completion of estimates information, detailed budget, forecast and other financial reports;
- adherence to departmental and Government policy and procedures related to financial operations;
- provision of quality financial information to departmental managers to enable proper management of programs;
- prompt and accurate payment of accounts payable;
- collection and deposit of all revenues and receipts to which the Department was entitled;
- capital asset financial planning and management;
- advice, guidance and administration related to contracts and grants;
- overall comptrollership support; and
- timely and convenient sale of angling licences to the public.

The Licensing Section managed a province-wide network of 775 private and 141 departmental licence vendors through which convenient access was provided to the public for angling, hunting, migratory waterfowl, trapping, fur dealer, park vehicle entry, camping, arborist and various other licences, permits and related information (e.g., Anglers' Guide, Hunting Guide, Trapper's Guide). For the period April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009, the Licensing Section recorded 752,473 transactions with net revenue of $13,618,051. Vendor activity for the same period included 50 new appointments, 98 discontinuances, 33 suspensions, and 26 reinstatements. A total of 714 private vendors are located in rural areas.

Draws for Manitoba residents are conducted each year to allocate hunting opportunities for elk and moose in areas of limited availability. The annual priority licence draw system was completed with 8,117 applicants and 3,788 licences awarded.

The Public Information section provided information to the public regarding the numerous programs delivered by the Departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship. This service was provided in person, by telephone, Internet and mail, including the following responses to requests for information and assistance in 2008/09:

- 33,151 direct telephone requests to the Information Officers;
- 30,704 calls were received by the automated Public Information Line, of which 10,520 were handled directly by the line;
- 71,966 in person requests;
- 1,261 requests through the Internet; and
- 5,135 information packages were mailed.

The Public Information section also supplied all regional and district offices with the majority of publications that are distributed by the Department of Conservation, and provided program assistance to branches such as, accepting and recording Seasonal Camping and Cottage Lot Draw applications and funds.

The Revenue Management section managed the collection, security, deposit and reporting of revenue for over 50 revenue streams for the Departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship. The section provided assistance with the delivery of various programs including the Cottage Lot Draw, Seasonal Camping Draw and the Parks Reservation Service. The section's Winnipeg Cashier's Office handled 6,780 direct sales totaling $2,401,800 and processed over 15,000 mailed remittances from customers and departmental field offices totaling $27,416,500. Credit cards were accepted at 45 locations, of which 39 also accepted debit cards.

Table AF.4

12.1(d) Financial Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,317	27.33	1,370	(53)	
Other Expenditures	426		390	36	
Total 12.1(d)	**1,743**	**27.33**	**1,760**	**(17)**	

Human Resource Services

Staffing

- Staffing activity included 1,594 appointments, including competitions, direct appointments, green team, STEP, term extensions and departmental hires and recalls. Guidance and advice were provided on Departmental Employee staffing, which has been delegated to managers.
- Secondment and Developmental opportunities were initiated.
- Acting status opportunities were encouraged for succession planning and training purposes.
- Human Resource Services were provided to Pineland Forest Nursery.

Labour/Employee Relations

- Provided guidance and advice to management in the completion of 138 labour relations cases, including appropriate discipline, and negotiating settlements to resolve issues before the formal grievance stage. There were 17 formal grievances and selection appeals completed.

Classification

- Classification activity included the completion of 145 position classification reviews.
- 3 classification appeals were handled.

Pay and Benefits

- Processed pay and benefits for more than 2,207 active and inactive staff.
- Processed T4s for approximately 1,000 Emergency Fire Fighters.
- Provided guidance and advice on pay administration issues for Conservation, Pineland Forest Nursery and Fire Fighters.

Employment Equity

- Employment Equity continues to be a consideration in all staffing activities.
- Staff participated in Career Fairs
- Liaison with Schools and organizations to enhance awareness of employment opportunities with Conservation.

Renewal Initiatives

- The branch supported and encouraged renewal initiatives in conjunction with the Civil Service Commission by participation in:
  - Participation in the Aboriginal Management Development Program;
  - The Career Gateway Program;

- The Management Internship Program;
- The Women's Leadership Program and the Leadership Development Initiative;
- The Career Assistance Program for Persons with Disabilities;
- The Management Internship Program (MIP);
- Initiation of a Leadership Development Initiative training through Organization and Staff Development (OSD) for Department Managers; and
- The Leadership @ All Levels Program.

Table AF.5
Employment Equity Representation

Fiscal Year	Total		Male		Female		Aboriginal		Persons w. Disability		Visible Minority	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2008-2009	1612	100	1010	62.7	602	37.3	296	18.4	31	1.9	27	1.7

The above data, as at March 31, 2009, includes active and inactive regular, term, technical, departmental, and casual employees for the Department of Conservation and Pineland Nursery.

Table AF.6
12.1(e) Human Resource Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,110	21.00	1,447	(337)	
Other Expenditures	163		185	(22)	
Total 12.1(e)	**1,273**	**21.00**	**1,632**	**(359)**	

1. Under expenditure in Salaries and Employee Benefits is due to vacant positions and lower requirements for backfill of seasonal positions as a result of work related injury.

Information Technology Services

The Information Technology (IT) Branch designs, implements and manages internal information technology services and provides expertise, including technology and business consulting, systems analysis, design, implementation, corporate database management, and development and management of a yearly department-wide information technology systems plan. Related services include business process redesign, new systems analysis, business case development, strategic and operational planning, management of contractors, and management of desktop deployment and refresh. The Branch develops and maintains the Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) spatial data warehouse that provides all of government's geospatial mapping data over the internet to the general public and government agencies.

Key Results Achieved:

The IT Branch continued its support and development enhancements to several business applications including custom web site development for the cottage lot draw program, Water Licensing application, the Environment Management System, the Vendor Accounting System, the Headquarters Enforcement System, the Big Game Management System, the License Advisory Committee System, the Canada Map Sales web site, and the water well drilling management application, and several other departmental business applications.

Business requirements and analysis work was completed along with the development of project charters for the replacement of the current water licensing system and also for the groundwater drilling application. Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping work was also initiated through the multi year Federal/Provincial agreement on the creation of the National Hydrographic Network (NHN) program

The Branch assisted in the development of enhancements to the new Parks Reservation System to expand its operational capabilities, deployed additional computers in 11 campground offices, and installed new automated check-in wireless devices in several others. Significant application load testing and several software enhancements were also completed.

The MLI warehouse contains all government geospatial GIS digital data and related databases and meta-data with interactive mapping tools and is available online to the general public via the Internet. Enhancements to the MLI data warehouse were completed in 2008/09. A new interactive map server was configured to provide seamless access of data for viewing and product downloading. A new web interface was also developed in conjunction with the Federal Government Geo-Connections to provide for a meta data search capability of Manitoba data through the federal web portal. The data warehouse now has over 13,000 registered users.

The Branch continued development of additional Web pages to meet the needs of the public while enhancing the departmental site and applying government-wide standards and templates.

Table AF.7
12.1(f) Information Technology Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	**Actual 2008/09 $(000)**	**Estimate 2008/09 FTE**	**Estimate 2008/09 $(000)**	**Variance Over/(Under) $(000)**	**Expl. No.**
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,151	8.00	1,271	(120)	
Other Expenditures	188		187	1	
Total 12.1(f)	**1,339**	**8.00**	**1,459**	**(119)**	

Clean Environment Commission

Under *The Environment Act*, The Clean Environment Commission (CEC) provides a mechanism through which the public can participate in environmental decision making. The Commission conducts public reviews and hearings into matters of environmental concern and provides advice and recommendations to the Minister. The Commission, while reporting directly to the Minister, is independent of the Department.

The Commission issues its own Annual Report with information on its mandate and operations. Copies can be obtained from the CEC at 305 – 155 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8. The CEC can be contacted at 204-945-0594 or toll free at 1-800-597-3556 or by fax at 204-945-0090. The CEC's web site is www.cecmanitoba.ca

Table AF.8
12.1(g) Clean Environment Commission

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	306	3.00	283	23	
Other Expenditures	134		330	(196)	1.
Total 12.1(g)	**440**	**3.00**	**613**	**(173)**	

1. Under expenditure is due to decreased operating costs related to fewer expert consultations.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Computer Graphics

The unit provides Geographic Information System (GIS), graphic design and Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CAD) services to Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Water Stewardship. The GIS component of Computer Graphics is responsible for providing expertise in the creation of spatial data and spatial data analyses, and in the preparation of customized geo-referenced maps. The Graphic Design component produces informational material required for internally supporting various programs, policies, and initiatives. Specialized CAD services include preparation of engineering plans for capital works and infrastructure maintenance projects.

Key Results Achieved:

Provided design, layout and illustration services to all program areas through publication of several booklets and brochures, including:

- Junior Naturalist & Park Explorer Booklets
- Parks Passport Program
- Protected Areas Initiative Area
- Heritage River Posters (Red, Bloodvein, Seal and Hayes rivers)
- Canada Map Sales re-branding
- Sustainability Awards Program
- Integrated Watershed Management Plan
- Commemorative Certificates Program
- Inter-provincial Wilderness Area

Prepared display boards, posters, promotional and presentation material, such as Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board Open House materials, Endangered Species Logo, PRS campground images, Severe Weather Safety brochure, Parks and Protected Areas Forum Materials, Protected Areas Initiative announcement displays and handouts, and promotional artwork for the Fisheries Branch of Manitoba Water Stewardship.

Assisted with the production of all the summer, winter and seasonal-use maps for parks campgrounds and trails in Manitoba.

Designed and produced various signage, handouts and permits for Parks campgrounds.

Designed various logos and other miscellaneous promotional material, such as Park Naturalist and Park Detective Logos, Canada Map Sales Logo, Year of astronomy (Parks) Logo, Employee Diversity Conference logo, and Eastern Region Caribou Logo.

Provided Geographic System Support to staff within Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship as well as mapping and analysis support to staff. Provided project management to Water Stewardship for the development of the Management and Planning System (MAPS) application as well as the management and creation of digital elevation models for Morden, Rivers and Rahls Island. Work continued on the creation of the National Hydro Network for Manitoba in co-operation with Natural Resources Canada. Maintained the digital spatial data warehouse for all Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship users of GIS.

Table CS.1

12.2(a) Computer Graphics

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	310	6.50	381	(71)	
Other Expenditures	25		33	(8)	
Total 12.2(a)	**335**	**6.50**	**414**	**(79)**	

Survey Services

The Branch administers and enforces *The Surveys Act* (Part II) and The Survey of Mining Claims Regulation, approves Plans of Survey for disposition of land under *The Crown Lands Act, The Gas Pipe Line Act* and The Mineral Disposition and Mineral Lease Regulation *(The Mines and Minerals Act)*. The Branch represents Manitoba on matters related to provincial boundaries, provides survey services to other departments, and maintains the Manitoba Spatial Reference Network and Land Survey System. Public benefits include a secure process for conveyance and reservation of Crown land and rights therein, an expeditious survey service for acquisition and disposition of land, a survey system for determining property boundaries, and a geodetic survey network for spatial referencing of land-related information.

Land Survey System Program

The program restores survey monuments of the Provincial Land Survey system, an infrastructure for land ownership, to ensure a strong cadastral (property parcel) framework for land conveyance and economic activities. It restores survey monuments and maintains survey documents concerning provincial boundaries. The program provides instructions to Manitoba Land Surveyors on the survey of Crown lands, examines their survey returns, approves their plans of survey, and operates a Survey Information Centre. The Survey Information Centre maintains cadastral and geodetic survey information dating back to 1870 and provides such information to industry, government departments and agencies, and the general public.

Key Results Achieved:

Monuments restored in the township and parish systems of survey	58
Survey instructions issued	13
Plans of survey examined	39
Plans of survey tentatively approved	40
Plans of survey approved for Treaty Land Entitlements	11
Plans of survey approved for other than Treaty Land Entitlements	22
Plans filed in the survey information centre	12
Request for survey information responded	101
Marker posts provided at no charge to land surveyors for identification and protection of survey monuments of the township system of survey	147

Manitoba Spatial Reference Network Program

The program maintains a network of survey monuments whose positions (latitude, longitude and elevation) have been determined. Disciplines such as civil and geotechnical engineering, resource management, and legal surveying use this network to determine horizontal position and vertical elevation of natural and man-made features and related information. This network is essential to ensure compatibility of all surveying, mapping, navigation, and other spatial information and to permit seamless and economic exchange and merge of such information. The Manitoba Spatial Reference Network, which includes 257 primary and approximately 10,000 secondary control-survey stations, is integral to the Canadian Spatial Reference System (CSRS), contributing to a reliable national infrastructure for referencing spatial information.

Key Results Achieved:

Staff recalculated the primary component of the Manitoba Spatial Reference Network to improve positional information of survey stations and updated station description documents for locating survey stations.

The Branch continued participation on the Canadian Geodetic Reference System Committee (CGRSC) of the Canadian Council on Geomatics. CGRSC is a federal-provincial working committee that is mandated to plan and coordinate the maintenance and improvement of the geodetic spatial reference system in Canada. The committee, amongst other activities, continued work on two major initiatives; i.e., the Canada-wide Differential GPS Service (CDGPS) and Modernization of the Canadian Height Reference System.

- The Canada-wide Differential GPS Service is a satellite-based, real-time differential GPS service designed to provide reliable GPS positional corrections. The system provides a free nation-wide service that will benefit all GPS users by improving the standardization of spatial data collection and the positional accuracy of spatial information. For users with a CDGPS receiver, it provides sub-metre to two metre positional accuracy throughout the Canadian landmass. It is suitable for natural resource management, environmental monitoring, agriculture, marine, mineral exploration, facilities management, precision farming, resource management, GIS and mapping, and navigation applications. For more information, visit the CDGPS web-site at http://www.cdgps.com.
- Modernization of the Canadian Height Reference System is a long-term initiative that will establish a new geoid-based datum to eventually replace the Mean Sea Level datum for vertical referencing. The new datum, scheduled for implementation by 2010, will offer numerous advantages over the current reference datum. It will be compatible with international standards, enable cost-savings through the use of Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) technologies such as the GPS, be accessible at any point in Canada, and will not be hindered by the deterioration of current benchmarks. In 2008/09 Natural Resources Canada continued testing the current geoid model (CGG2005) for an acceptable solution and committee approval. For more information, visit the Canadian Spatial Reference System website at http://www.geod.nrcan.gc.ca/hm/docs_e.php.

Survey Services Program

The program provides legal and control surveys and cadastral (property parcel) mapping under cost recovery to provincial government departments and agencies for the acquisition and disposition of land, construction and maintenance of public works, and spatial referencing of land-related features and information. Clients include:

- Conservation (Regional Operations, Lands & Geomatics Branch, Parks & Natural Areas Branch, and Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection Branch);
- Infrastructure and Transportation (Regional Operations, Manitoba Floodway Authority, Crown Land and Property Agency, Northern Airports and Marine Branch, Water Control and Structures Branch, and Highway Engineering Branch);

- Water Stewardship (Water Control Systems Management Branch);
- Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (Agreements Management Branch and Local Government Development Division);
- Science, Technology, Energy and Mines (Mines Branch and Petroleum Branch); and
- Intergovernmental Affairs (Community Planning Services Branch).

Products and services include:

- Legal surveys of public roads, water control works and utility easements;
- Legal surveys of land parcels and subdivisions (including the cottaging initiative);
- Retracement and restoration surveys of prior legal survey;
- Topographic surveys and terrain elevation models;
- Control surveys for topographic mapping and civil engineering projects;
- Control surveys for property parcel mapping (cadastral integration surveys);
- Cadastral (property parcel) mapping;
- Property parcel dimensions, acreages and coordinates;
- Administrative boundary plans;
- Legal descriptions for disposition of Crown lands and interests therein;
- Structure location surveys and certificates; and
- Land transaction/conveyance documents.

Key Results Achieved:

- Cost-recovery objective;
- Easement surveys for cottage subdivisions at various locations;
- Public road and water control work surveys at numerous locations;
- Parcel surveys for additions to First Nation lands at many sites; and
- Administrative boundary plans for Protected Areas, Wildlife Management Areas and Park Areas.

The Branch initiated, continued or completed 446 projects in 2008/09, as follows:

Legal surveys	151
Control surveys	13
Administrative boundary plans	9
Cadastral integration surveys	4
Cadastral mapping projects	1
Legal descriptions	268

Table CS.2
12.2(b) Survey Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Estimate 2008/09		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,329	26.00	1,574	(245)	
Other Expenditures	432		443	(11)	
Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations	(1,379)		(1,571)	192	
Total 12.2(b)	**382**	**26.00**	**446**	**(65)**	

Distribution Centre

The Distribution Centre serves the public and government agencies with mapping and aerial photo products sold across Canada. The market for these products is primarily the public and outdoor recreational users throughout North America. Product lines are continually being improved and expanded to meet the needs of Map Sales clientele.

Key Results Achieved:

The Distribution Centre obtained all National Topographic Series Maps (over 14,000 titles) electronically from Natural Resources Canada, enabling the Centre to print on demand all topographic maps for locations across Canada. This new technology provides faster and more efficient service to clients, as any map can be provided with an immediate turn around time as opposed to a two-week wait for special orders processed through Ottawa. This technology has also enabled the Centre to introduce a new waterproof topographic map product line. A new large format printer was acquired to meet customer demands.

Lake depth maps for lakes in Manitoba and Ontario are continually being updated to include the Universal Transverse Mercator grids and coordinates. This information is required for our many clients who are now using hand held Global Positioning System (GPS) units. All lake depth maps are available on paper or waterproof paper.

In 2008/09 22,210 maps were sold directly or through the 150 dealers in Manitoba, Ontario and the north central United States. The Distribution Centre maintained its ranking of third largest distributor of Topographic maps in Canada.

Air photo products are produced and sold to the general public and government agencies. The Air Photo Library houses the only historic pictures of Manitoba's landscape dating back to the 1920s and holds approximately 1,000,000 such photos. These photos are purchased by resource planners, environmental agencies, land developers and mining companies. All photos are produced through scanning and printing of aerial photographs, technology that provides high quality products for all clients and are available in standard 10" x 10" and enlargements up to 40" x 40".

Development of a new canadamapsales.com website started in September 2008 and was operational in the spring of 2009.

Table CS.3
12.2(c) Distribution Centre

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Estimate 2008/09		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	364	7.00	346	18	
Other Expenditures	266		328	(62)	
Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations	(17)		(50)	33	
Total 12.2(c)	**613**	**7.00**	**624**	**(10)**	

Seasonal Support

Seasonal Support provides for student employment during peak periods of departmental employment.

Key Results Achieved:

The Department participated in STEP student employment programming coordinated through the Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth, as well as co-op education programs offered through community colleges and universities.

Approximately 100 students were employed in support of departmental programming.

Table CS.4
12.2(d) Seasonal Support

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	355	0.00	399	(44)	
Total 12.2(d)	**355**	**0.00**	**399**	**(44)**	

REGIONAL OPERATIONS

Regional Support Services
2008/09 Objectives and Key Results Achieved

Regional field staff are given the necessary knowledge, tools and resources and are trained and certified in necessary skill sets which will result in safe, effective and professional delivery of department programs.

- Firearm qualification for 200 seasonal and full-time Resource Officers was completed regionally by departmental peer Firearms Instructors.

- Seven new Natural Resource Officer recruits attended the Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy, jointly delivered by Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Manitoba in Hinton, Alberta. This was an effective and economical means of preparing new officers for a successful career in the field of conservation law enforcement. The 18 week academy curriculum included training in firearms, emergency driving, defensive tactics, boating, investigations, and problem wildlife, among others, and reflects a move to common standards that will streamline training in western Canada.

- Central Training sessions were held for 125 full-time Natural Resource Officers (NROs) to certify them in Winter Emergency Vehicle Operation recertify them in defensive tactics and train judgemental skill in use of force scenarios.

- Twenty-seven seasonal Park Patrol Officers were trained at the University College of the North in The Pas, prior to being certified for summer duty.

- Twenty-three Natural Resource Officers and Environment Officers were given a two day course on Interactive Leadership for Field Training.

- NRO Training Officers attended seven career fairs around the province and gave presentations at many of them, including 2 out of province, in efforts to recruit more candidates to Manitoba (10 of the last 18 NRO recruits were originally non-residents).

- A Back Country Canoe Safety Course was delivered to prepare 6 students designated to do river patrol on white-water rivers.

Specialized enforcement needs such as detailed investigations, covert operations, forensic lab services and canine detection are developed sufficiently to meet the needs of the department's field officers in addressing violations of resource and environmental law.

- Regional investigators assisted various districts with complex investigations primarily related to illegal harvest and use of fish and wildlife.

- Regional Investigators assisted districts in the Winnipeg area with organizing and establishing a series of inspections of commercial establishments; stores and restaurants that sell or serve fish to the public.

- A covert investigation relating to the illegal sale of fish in the Winnipeg area started during 2007and 2008 was concluded and is currently before the courts.

- A two-year covert investigation relating to the illegal sale of Lake Sturgeon that concluded in 2008 was addressed by the courts. Guilty pleas were entered and the court assessed total fines of $1,500.00.

- A covert investigation relating to the illegal sale of a bald eagle that concluded in 2007 was addressed by the courts. A guilty plea was entered and the court assessed a reprimand with an order to pay $200.00 to a Conservation Fund.

- Multiple charges were laid resulting from a covert investigation relating to illegal outfitting in rural Manitoba that was conducted in 2007. The case is currently before the courts.

- An investigation was conducted regarding the illegal export of fish from Manitoba to another Province. This investigation resulted in six charges which are presently before the courts.

- There were 193 human-caused wildfires investigated resulting in six prosecutions, six warnings and evidence gathered to support 99 fire suppression cost recovery charge-backs. There were 102 fires determined to have been intentionally caused of which 47 were suspected to have been arson.

- The Manitoba Conservation Canine Team was used extensively throughout the province. Jake, a Belgian Malanois, worked on a variety of details including roadside check stations, decoy operations, searching for evidence involving investigations of illegal fishing and hunting and assisted other agencies with such things as searching for lost persons. The team was also involved with twenty-one wildfire investigations and provided instruction in defensive tactics, firearms and use of force.

- The dog and officer handler conducted seven public education programs in schools and at public meetings throughout the Province, reaching numerous people.

- Two school presentations and K9 demonstrations were conducted in a northern community to educate the children about the dangers and consequences of lighting fires. The canine team was personally present during interviews at the home of parents and their children suspected of lighting fires. High profile patrolling of the community and stopping to speak with residents about fire prevention, reduced fire starts.

The public has access to well-advertised 24-hour toll-free numbers to report forest fires and resource-law violations.

- The 24-hour toll free telephone service (1-800-782-0076), aimed at reducing the illegal harvest of fish and wildlife, received 300 calls resulting in 22 prosecutions and 5 warnings. In addition, the toll free line received 84 calls reporting forest fires.

- See Tables RO.13 and RO.14.

Recruitment and staffing of Resource Officers and Environment Officers are conducted in such a way as to maintain high professional standards and meet the needs of the Department and the expectation of the public.

- Eleven Natural Resource Officers were transferred to new locations to meet operational needs and to facilitate career development.

- Three positions were re-focused and staffed as full-time Regional Training Officers to help meet the demand for officer safety and proficiency training.

- Thirteen Natural Resource Officers and 5 Environment Officers were successful in competitive processes for vacant positions within the Division.

- Seven new Natural Resource Officers and 14 new Environment Officers were hired on to fill vacancies.

- Twenty-six new Park Patrol Officers were hired to provide safety and security services in provincial parks for the summer months.

- Eight former Park Patrol Officers were promoted to seasonal Assistant Resource Officers.

Field staff, managers and executive have access to accurate and timely inspection and compliance data to enable decision-making and informed analysis of the effectiveness of legislation and program delivery.

- See Tables RO.1 to RO.7.

- A replacement data management program for compliance & enforcement data is under development with the assistance of government information technology staff.

Sufficient liaison is maintained with other government departments, federal/provincial agencies and non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) to maintain up-to-date and continually improving service delivery models.

- Considerable interaction with Manitoba Justice to address issues related to the harvesting of natural resources by Aboriginal people.

- Several sessions held with officials of the Manitoba Métis Federation towards establishing a practical understanding of Métis harvesting rights.

- Worked extensively with the Fisheries Branch of Manitoba Water Stewardship on compliance issues relating to commercial fish quota management, conservation closures and rights-based food fishing.

- Met regularly with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) concerning federal and provincial enforcement and implementation of fisheries habitat and fish marketing legislation.

- Participated in provincial law enforcement consultation as a member of the Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police.

- Participated in a federal/provincial symposium on Aboriginal food fishing.

Hunter-killed livestock claims are evaluated and processed promptly and livestock producers are fairly compensated for animals accidentally killed by hunters.

- The Program compensates livestock owners for animals deemed accidentally shot by licensed hunters during an open big game season. Claims are investigated by Natural Resource Officers and occasionally by the RCMP. This year, four claims qualified for compensation totaling $1,087. Program activity for the past ten years is illustrated in Table RO.11.

The regions and department executive are kept updated on emerging changes and issues. Strategies are prepared to handle problems and introduce new initiatives.

- New policies and directives were developed to support full investigations of significant human-caused wildfires and to provide direction on the use of government vehicles operated by Manitoba Conservation.
- A ceremony was held at the legislature to honour families and surviving members of a group of war vets that returned in 1945 and worked with the department for many years.

Table RO.1

Livestock Regulation Enforcement 1998/99 to 2008/09

Fiscal Year	Prosecutions	*Warnings*	Orders	Fines ($)
1998-99	12	32	7	11,862
1999-00	9	35	10	8,496
2000-01	16	49	22	8,067
2001-02	16	53	34	11,903
2002-03	15	59	21	20,280
2003-04	19	54	57	23,076
2004-05	16	63	45	36,960
2005-06	12	53	35	8,935
2006-07	2	41	29	1,114
2007-08	0	17	21	0
2008-09	2	27	30	2881
Total	**119**	**483**	**311**	**$136,455**

Table RO.2

Environmental Programs Enforcement

Legislation	Prosecutions	*Warnings*	Orders	Fines($)
The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act - Dangerous Goods Handling & Transportation Regulation - Storage and Handling of Petroleum Products and Allied Products Regulation	71	11	7	35,428
The Environment Act - Litter Regulation - Burning of Crop Residue and Non-Crop Herbage Regulation - Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation - Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation - Waste Disposal Grounds Regulation	25	123	44	18,751
Total	**96**	**134**	**51**	**$54,179**

Table RO.3
Common Violations under *The Provincial Parks Act*

Offence	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences	Evictions
No Park Vehicle Pass	1,243	0	1,243	0
Cause Disturbance	59	110	169	673
Parking Violations	142	15	157	0
Disobey Officer/Sign/Permit	60	17	77	5
Camp w/o Permit/Prohibited	19	7	26	13
Unlawful Vehicle Operation	24	38	62	2
Possess Fireworks	13	1	14	0
Have Liquor Where Prohibited	25	2	27	136
Fail to Control Pet / On Beach	8	22	30	0
Fire w/o Permit/Unattended Fire	6	2	8	0
Fail to Maintain Campsite	10	3	13	0
Damage Pollute Park Property	15	5	20	0
Other	12	7	19	0
Total	**1,636**	**229**	**1,865**	**829**

Table RO.4
Common Violations under *the Wildlife Act*

Offence	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences
Hunt/Trap/Guide W/O Licence / Licence Infractions	30	12	42
Hunt From or Have Loaded Firearm in Vehicle	46	5	51
Tagging / Transportation Infractions	32	16	48
Hunt Prohibited Area/Private Land W/O Permission	25	12	37
Hunt or Discharge Firearm From Road	30	1	31
Equipment Infractions	12	10	22
Night Hunting / Dangerous Hunting	11	0	11
Abandon/Waste Game	6	1	7
Bait Infractions	6	4	10
Possess Illegally Taken / Prohibited Wildlife	21	5	26
Hunt Out of Season	6	1	7
Hunt for Remuneration / Illegal Sale of Wildlife	1	0	1
Other	8	3	11
Total	**234**	**70**	**304**

Table RO.5

Common Violations under *the Fisheries Act (Canada)*, and *the Fisheries Act (Manitoba)*

Offence	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences
Equipment Infractions	387	37	424
Licence Infractions	228	247	475
Exceed Limits	99	19	118
Transportation Infractions	33	30	63
Illegal Sale / Possession of Fish	34	6	40
Wastage of Fish	6	1	7
Fish During Closed Time / Closed Area	11	7	18
Live Bait Infractions	1	0	1
Other	3	6	9
Total	**802**	**353**	**1,155**

Table RO.6

Comparison of Wildlife, Fisheries, Parks and Migratory Birds Prosecutions 1999/00 to 2008/09

Fiscal Year	Wildlife	Fisheries	Parks	Migratory Birds
1999-00	337	833	219	36
2000-01	371	610	203	8
2001-02	379	674	227	8
2002-03	213	537	195	9
2003-04	321	654	*1,523	15
2004-05	287	660	*1,219	9
2005-06	376	707	*1,634	15
2006-07	289	547	*1,559	18
2007-08	244	595	*1,537	23
2008-09	234	802	*1,636	13

*Includes Parking and No Park Vehicle Pass violations not reported before 2003/04

Table RO.7
Record of Violations Occurring 2008/09

Acts	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences
Criminal Code of Canada	1	0	1
Crown Lands	56	22	78
Dutch Elm Disease	0	1	1
Endangered Species	2	0	2
Forest	3	14	17
Fisheries (Canada)	632	187	819
Fisheries (Manitoba)	170	166	336
Freshwater Fish Marketing	5	0	5
Highway Traffic	21	9	30
Liquor Control	345	14	359
Migratory Birds	13	2	15
Off Road Vehicle	27	39	66
Provincial Parks	1,636	229	1,865
Resource Tourism Operators	0	1	1
Wildfires	7	18	25
Wildlife	234	70	304
Total	**3,152**	**772**	**3,924**

Total Fines: $382,215.06 for 2008/09

Table RO.8
Hunter and Firearm Safety Program 1999-2008

Year	Students	Total to Date	Instructors Certified
1999	2,068	132,294	15
2000	2,079	134,373	5
2001	1,976	136,349	4
2002	2,191	138,540	7
2003	2,059	140,599	14
2004	2,336	142,935	24
2005	2,611	145,546	14
2006	3,032	148,578	14
2007	2,936	151,514	13
2008	3,130	154,644	13

Table RO.9
Firearm Accidents, 1964-2008, 5-Year Averages

1964-68	44
1969-73	56
1974-78	54
1979-83	43
1984-88	26
1989-93	20
1994-98	9
1999-03	6
2004-08	4

Table RO.10
Firearm Accidents 1999-2008

Year	Accidents			Fatalities		
	Hunting	Non-Hunting	Total	Hunting	Non-Hunting	Total
1999	10	5	15	3	1	4
2000	3	0	3	0	0	0
2001	6	0	6	3	0	3
2002	2	0	2	1	0	1
2003	4	0	4	1	0	1
2004	5	1	6	1	0	1
2005	2	3	5	1	0	1
2006	3	0	3	0	0	0
2007	2	0	2	0	0	0
2008	4	0	4	3	0	3

Table RO.11
Hunter-Killed Livestock Compensation 1999/00 to 2008/09

Year Paid	Claims	Claims Paid	Total Paid	Average Paid
1999-00	9	6	$5,670	$ 945
2000-01	7	4	$4,120	$1,030
2001-02	6	5	$5,034	$1,007
2002-03	9	5	$5,716	$1,143
2003-04	3	3	$2,358	$ 786
2004-05	4	1	$ 600	$ 600
2005-06	3	2	$1,100	$ 550
2006-07	2	1	$2,600	$2,600
2007-08	9	6	$3,624	$ 604
2008-09	4	2	$1,087	$ 543

Table RO.12
Problem Wildlife Occurrences 2008/09

Species	Region						
	NE	NW	E	C	W	Total	% of Total
Beaver	1	3	48	124	18	194	5%
Black Bear	68	82	328	255	239	972	26%
Polar Bear	171	0	0	0	0	171	5%
Big Game	0	2	16	73	121	212	6%
Wolf	22	7	42	49	105	225	6%
Migratory Birds	2	0	12	127	150	291	8%
Other*	21	31	140	964	475	1631	44%
Total	**285**	**125**	**586**	**1592**	**1108**	**3696**	**100%**

***Other includes coyote, fox, racoon, skunk, etc.**

Table RO.13
T.I.P. Calls by Region 2008/09

Region	Number of Calls					Number of Prosecutions			
	Fish	Wildlife	Other	Fire	Total	Fish	Wildlife	Other	Total
Central	25	105	3	3	136	5	6	0	11
Western	10	80	1	16	107	1	5	0	6
Eastern	3	58	2	30	93	0	5	0	5
Northwest	2	3	1	12	18	0	0	0	0
Northeast	2	5	0	23	30	0	0	0	0
Total	42	251	7	84	384	6	16	0	22

Table RO.14
T.I.P. Calls by Year 2000/01 to 2008/09 (excluding Fire)

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09
Total	568	569	485	406	358	330	364	312	300
Information	23	18	31	19	21	10	11	6	6
Actioned	204	230	218	235	226	217	261	192	153
Prosecutions	59	40	30	37	21	37	28	18	22
Warnings	37	12	8	2	5	8	15	1	5

Table RO.15

12.3(a) Regional Support Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Estimate 2008/09		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,630	37.50	2,373	257	
Other Expenditures	1,480		1,525	(45)	
Problem Wildlife Control	267		243	24	
Total 12.3(a)	**4,377**	**37.50**	**4,141**	**236**	

Northwest Region

The Northwest Region encompasses a diverse landscape that includes parts of the Manitoba Lowlands and Canadian Shield natural regions. The Region is dominated by boreal forest, lakes and rivers, largely in a natural state.

Mineral extraction, processing and exploration, commercial timber harvesting and processing (lumber and pulp and paper), agriculture (Manitoba's most northerly farming community), resource-based tourism (lodges and outfitting) and commercial fishing and trapping are the main industries providing economic and employment benefits in the Region. The harvesting of wild rice and of non-timber forest products also provide for some local employment. Domestic and recreational use of the Region's wildlife, fish and forest resources by the residents of the Region is also significant.

Due to the values-at-risk associated with towns and communities and with timber values, the Region's fire management and suppression program is the most significant and highest priority program delivered in the Northwest Region in terms of both employment and expenditures. It normally runs from May through September. At the same time the Region delivers services, programs and security in the Clearwater Lake, Bakers Narrows, Grass River and Wekusko Provincial Parks. The management and allocation of Crown land and resources to different, often competing, users and compliance monitoring and enforcement of Crown land, resource and environmental legislation are year round activities in the Region. Participation on co-management boards and problem wildlife are also important program activities in the Region.

The Northwest Region has a Regional Office located at The Pas and District Offices located at Cranberry Portage, Flin Flon, Snow Lake, Grand Rapids and The Pas.

Cost-effective and professional delivery of field services to the public.

- The Region experienced an above average fire season. Low water tables and the lack of winter precipitation resulted in extreme fire dangers throughout the Region at the start of the fire season. The first human caused fire occurred on May 1 and the last fire started October 26th. There were 81 fires, of which 45 were lightning caused and 36 human caused.
- Two fires escaped initial attack that resulted in the deployment of Incident Command Teams. The largest fire was the Norris Lake fire north of Grand Rapids, which reached 53,950 hectares in size. This fire resulted in the periodic closure of PTH 6 and disruption of power on the nearby high voltage transmission lines.
- The Bess fire near the community of Sherridon/Cold Lake reached a final size of 10, 450 hectares. Winds drove this fire directly at the community but a tremendous fire fighting effort

by Manitoba Conservation, community members, and the Office of the Fire Commissioner limited damage to one small wooden shed being burnt.

15% of anglers checked and 30% of hunters checked.

- Resource Officers checked 2094 anglers and 387 hunters for compliance.

New initiatives to effectively reduce illegal traffic in fish and wildlife.

- Resource Officers checked 171 commercial fishers and 219 commercial fisher's nets for compliance. There were 6 roadside check stations conducted in the Region.

Control of park rowdyism and reduced level of related public complaints; increase in the level of visitor satisfaction within Provincial Parks.

- Campsite enlargements were completed throughout Bay 1 in the Wekusko Falls Campground.
- The Campers Cove boat launch in Clearwater Park was enhanced with new docks and improved parking.
- The boat launch at Pumphouse Point in Clearwater Park was reconstructed with the cooperation of the The Pas Rotary Club and the Town of The Pas.
- Phase two of the construction of the road to Stoney Point in Clearwater Park was completed with traffic gravel being crushed and stockpiled for the project and debris piles disposed of.

Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.

- Regional and District staff participated as provincial representatives on the Cedar Lake and Cormorant Resource Management Boards, and the Opaskwayak Joint Management board. The Comprehensive Forebay Agreement with the Mosakahiken Cree Nation was signed in February 2008 and the Moose Lake Resource Management Board was formed with representatives from the First Nation Community, Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, and Conservation. The Board is meeting regularly and will be establishing its future priorities with community input.

- The Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN) / Manitoba Conservation Joint Management of Resources Board continue its cooperative management mandate. Board accomplishments include clarification of protocols for consultation between OCN and government departments, review of provincial legislation, policies, and operational guidelines to harmonize with OCN traditional use practices, establishment of a sub- committee to review Ducks Unlimited / Manitoba Conservation Agreements within the Traditional Territory, and establishment of normal Board review process for reviewing crown land applications.

Development of short and long range regional resource management plans.

- Woodland caribou research and monitoring continues throughout the NW region to aid in assessment of industrial impacts associated with the forestry, mining sectors and in particular in respect to Manitoba Hydro developments. The NW Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee chaired by MC staff have forged collaborative partnerships with industry that saw continued work on genetic based assessments of regional herds, detailed inventory and affects monitoring of the Wuskwatim Transmission line development, commencement of baseline population inventories required to assess effects of proposed expansion in forestry operations (Wheadon River area) and BiPole 3. Development of an Action Plan for the Naosap woodland caribou range deemed "high risk" has begun.

- The Summerberry Research Project in the Lower Saskatchewan River Delta continued with a full complement of research staff undertaking detailed investigations into marsh productivity in relation to marsh management techniques being applied. Progress on this initiative is being closely tied to the workings of the OCN/MC Joint Management of Resources Board.

Regional concerns are considered before land is allocated.

- The region reviewed and provided comments on numerous Crown Land Applications, including assignments, general permits, sales, leases and wild rice applications.
- A total of 223 Work Permits were issued, 39 for mining exploration, 62 for cottage lot development, 46 for forestry activities, with the remainder for miscellaneous work including access road construction, brushing, line cutting, and construction camps. A work permit was issued for the clearing of the Wuskwatim Transmission line from The Pas to Highway #39 with the work being completed by the end of March/09.
- Approximately 12 exploration companies conducted exploration activities in the Flin Flon, Snow Lake, Moose Lake and Grand Rapids areas with work permits being issued and inspected by Natural Resource Officers for compliance under *The Crown Lands Act*. These activities include drilling, soil sampling, line cutting and geological reconnaissance.
- Regional staff coordinated the planting of 1,072,000 trees throughout the Region in areas the department was responsible for.
- The Tolko Annual Operating Plan (AOP) was reviewed and approved. 1,704,100 m3 of harvest volume was approved in the Northwest Region under this plan in year 1 and year 1 contingency blocks. Regional forestry staff participated in the consultation process with First Nation and Aboriginal communities in the Region on the AOP.

Table RO.16
12.3(b) Northwest Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Estimate 2008/09		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,123	38.15	2,210	(87)	
Other Expenditures	838		857	(19)	
Total 12.3(b)	**2,961**	**38.15**	**3,067**	**(106)**	

Northeast Region

The Northeast Region encompasses 66% of the land area of Manitoba and is comprised primarily of vast uninterrupted tracts of boreal forest transitioning to taiga in the far north. The majority of the land base remains in its natural state, unaltered and undeveloped, and is largely inaccessible due to an extremely limited road network.

On a capita per area basis the Northeast Region is the most sparsely populated area. Mineral extraction, processing and exploration, hydro-electric generation and transmission, resource-based tourism (lodges and outfitting), timber harvesting and commercial fishing and trapping are the main industries generating economic and employment benefits for the Region and Province. Domestic and recreational use of the Region's wildlife, fish and forest resources by the residents of the Region is also significant.

Due to the values-at-risk associated with towns and communities and with timber values, the Region's fire management and suppression program is the most significant and highest priority program delivered in the Northeast Region in terms of both employment and expenditures. It normally runs from May through September. At the same time the Region delivers services, programs and security at Paint Lake Provincial Park and several other provincial parks. The management and allocation of Crown land and resources to different, often competing, users and compliance monitoring and enforcement of Crown land, resource and environmental legislation are year round activities in the Region. Participation on co-management boards and problem wildlife, including the high profile Polar Bear Alert Program at Churchill, are also important program activities in the Region.

The Northeast Region has a Regional Office located at Thompson, District Offices located at Churchill, Gillam, Thompson, Wabowden, Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids, Norway House, Island Lake, and Gods Lake Narrows, and sub-District Offices located at Split Lake, Nelson House, Pukatawagan, South Indian Lake, Cross Lake, and Oxford House.

Cost-effective and professional delivery of field services to the public.

- 2008 was a quiet fire season for the Northeast Region with only 184 fires, of which 87 were caused by lightning and the remaining 97 the result of human activity. Dry spring conditions combined with extreme fire weather resulted in large fires in the vicinity of the communities of Norway House, Wassagamach, and St. Theresa Point. No property was lost but a number of residents were evacuated due to smoke and health issues. Successful preparedness planning and initial attack kept losses of merchantable timber the Primary Protection Zone to a negligible level. A total of 75,300 hectares burned but only 3,900 hectares were consumed in the Protection Zone with the remainder being lost in the Observation Zone.

15% of anglers checked and 30% of hunters checked.

- Natural Resource Officers checked 1465 anglers and 796 hunters for compliance.
- Natural Resource Officers checked 66 commercial fishermen for compliance.

Control of park rowdyism and reduced level of related public complaints; increase in the level of visitor satisfaction within Provincial Parks.

- Paint Lake Provincial Park recorded over 5,100 unit nights of camping which is a record high amount of use. The campground at Paint Lake Provincial Park was added to the computerized Parks Reservation System and this improvement likely contributed to the increased usage.

- A tender was let and contract awarded for the first phase of upgrading the drinking water system at Paint Lake Provincial Park.

- Pisew Falls Provincial Park continues to be a popular destination and its use by residents and tourists appears to be increasing. The walking/hiking trail between Pisew Falls to Kastitchewan Falls is becoming more popular with hikers.

Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.

- Regional and District staff participated as provincial representatives on the Nelson House, Split Lake, York Factory, Norway House and Fox Lake Resource Management Boards, the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board, the Wapisu Caribou Committee, the Northeast Woodland Caribou Committee and the Wapusk National Park Management Board.

- Regional staff participated on the department's negotiating committee towards the establishment of the Cree and the Island Lake Regional Resource management Boards as provided for under the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin Accord.

- Regional staff participated on an inter-departmental team headed by Aboriginal and Northern Affairs meeting with representatives of the Manitoba Denesuline Sayisi Dene and Northlands Dene First Nations), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Kivalliq Inuit Association and Canada on land and wildlife harvesting and management issues in northern Manitoba.

- To fulfill the government's duty to consult with First Nation and Aboriginal communities on government decisions or actions that could infringe or affect Treaty and aboriginal rights, Regional staff consulted with First Nations and Aboriginal communities across Tolko's Forest Management License Area on Tolko's 2009/10 Forest Harvest and Renewal Plan.

Minimize the number of complaints related to problem wildlife.

- 33 polar bears were captured under the Polar Bear Alert Program in fall 2008, which was the lowest number handled in the past ten years. The number of polar bear occurrences reported was 171 with November being the busiest month (45% of the reported occurrences). The electrical system and lighting in the Polar Bear Holding Compound were redone.

Development of short and long range regional resource management plans.

- Regional staff monitored the transmission line and road development associated with Manitoba Hydro's Wuskwatim project and worked with Hydro staff to address and mitigate issues as they occurred. In particular, assistance was provided in designing mitigation measures for boreal woodland caribou occurring along the transmission line routing.

- Two coastal polar bear surveys were completed in 2008. The July survey was done when the Hudson Bay was 50% free of ice and 95 polar bears were counted. On the September survey 281 polar bears were counted along the coast between Churchill and the Manitoba/Ontario border. The distribution of the polar bears along the coastline was similar for both surveys, indicating little movement during the ice free period.

- A survey was done on the calving ground of the Qamanirjuaq barren-ground caribou herd to determine a population estimate for the herd. The preliminary analysis of results indicates the herd has declined since the last survey was done in 1994. Funding for the survey was cost-shared with governments, industry and non-government organizations all providing financial support; Manitoba contributed $100,000 (25% of the total cost) and two staff to the survey.

Regional concerns are considered before land is allocated.

- The Region reviewed and provided comments on 37 Crown Land applications, 26 Crown Land assignments, 6 Crown Land lease renewals, 67 Casual Quarry Permit applications, 10 Licence Advisory Committee applications, 6 LAC renewal applications and 1 LAC transfer of operating authority applications, 21 Work Permit applications and 2 Environment Act Licence pre-screening applications.

- 238 Timber Permits, 136 Work Permits and 64 Burning Permits were issued through District Offices and Regional Office.

Other Notable Highlights

- Environment Officers carried out 141 inspections for Onsite Wastewater Management Systems (62), Waste Disposal Grounds (30), Petroleum Storage (27), Environment Act Licenses (15), Hazardous Material Sites (3) and Contaminated/Impacted Sites (4).
- The Thompson Fur Table was attended by 219 trappers, and a total of $314,876.00 worth of fur was sold.
- Non-resident hunting continues to be an important activity in the Northeast Region with 58 lodge operators/outfitters being allocated 212 moose licenses, 745 black bear licenses and 440 caribou licenses.
- Regional staff assisted with re-vegetation efforts at decommissioned mine sites at Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids and Manibridge.
- Regional staff coordinated community tree plants at Thompson, Churchill and Wabowden. Youth from all three communities participated.
- The Region's Regional Safety Coordinator carried out inspections and conducted or arranged for training to ensure compliance with the *Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act* and Regulations.

Table RO.17

12.3(c) Northeast Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,806	47.38	2,719	87	
Other Expenditures	1,162		1,171	(9)	
Total 12.3(c)	**3,968**	**47.38**	**3,890**	**78**	

Central Region

The Central Region delivers programs and services in the following program areas: wildlife, forestry, Crown lands, provincial parks, environmental protection and wildfire protection. This includes development, delivery and evaluation of programs and services, inspection, compliance monitoring, and enforcement of environment and natural resource legislation. This is done by multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from a Regional Office in Gimli and District Offices in Ashern, Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Gypsumville, Hodgson, Lundar, Manitou, Portage la Prairie, Riverton, Selkirk, Winkler, Winnipeg, and Winnipeg Beach.

Cost-effective and professional delivery of field services to the public.

Environment Programs

Over 70% of Manitoba's population resides in the Central Region. In addition to the large number of light and heavy industrial operations located in the region, agriculture industry such as livestock operations also play a major economic role in the region. Major programs associated with the above described activities administered by the region include *The Environment Act*, The Transportation of Dangerous

Goods licenses enforcement, Contaminated Sites, Petroleum Storage, On-Site Wastewater, Solid Waste Management, and Livestock Operations.

Environment Officers are located in the Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Winkler, Selkirk, and Gimli offices. Regional staff:

- Processed 793 applications for private onsite wastewater management systems.
- Oversaw the closure of two waste disposal grounds, the opening of two new regional disposal sites and one new waste transfer station.
- Continued to participate in the remediation of a number of contaminated and impacted sites.
- Continued to work with and assist local municipalities in wastewater and solid waste management issues.
- Conducted 330 inspections of livestock operations including the construction of manure storage facilities and responded to over 100 complaints and 30 emergencies related to fire and/or spills.

In the fall of 2008, they responded to complaints of smoke from stubble burning and patrol and follow up from the aerial surveillance program was initiated.

Resource Programs

Compliance levels in excess of 95% for Public Related Complaints.

- Regional staff responded to 3,371 district occurrence reports from the public related to parks operation and safety, problem wildlife and resources related complaints. In addition, staff provided representation on behalf of the department and professional advice to a large number of public, industry and interest groups on forestry, wildlife, Crown lands and other resource concerns and issues.
- Central Region staff undertook 1,297 enforcement actions resulting in 633 charges, 249 warnings and 415 evictions from provincial parks. These actions were primarily in response to public complaints on regulatory resource issues as well as maintaining park safety and security for the public.

New initiatives to effectively reduce illegal traffic in fish and wildlife.

- In response to the 2008/09 Central Region Enforcement Strategy, significant enforcement resources were redeployed to park safety and security, wildfire investigations and commercial use of fish and wildlife priorities.

Control of park rowdyism and reduced level of related public complaints; increase in the level of visitor satisfaction within Provincial Parks.

- Park rowdyism, public safety and security remain priority issues requiring the primary attention of the region's resources. Reallocation of additional staff from out of district and out of region was required to provide adequate enforcement staff to control situations and respond to public complaints.

Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.

- Regional Crown Land staff continues to work with the Fisher River First Nation in a positive respectful partnership for the development of a joint cottage lot development.

Minimize the number of complaints related to problem wildlife.

- The number of problem wildlife complaints from the public decreased to 1,592 occurrence reports in the region. Nuisance small animal complaints especially raccoon, skunk, coyotes and others continue to increase and cause the highest number of complaints. Over half of all problem wildlife complaints originate from urban areas and are related to nuisance animals. Public education and waste handling initiatives continue in the Grand Beach District to prevent black bear/human interactions. Black bear complaints decreased to 255 in the region.

Development of short and long range regional resource management plans.

- The Dancing Point harvest area plan was submitted and the silviculture plan iwas mplemented based on harvest and renewal strategy.
- The Interdepartmental regional BLOC planning Committee continues to review operational Crown land use codes to improve long term land and resource use and reduce land use conflicts.
- The Integrated Resource Management Team subcommittee established decommissioning protocol for a major Ducks Unlimited project to ensure post project land use is consistent with the Wildlife Management Area land and resource objectives.

Regional concerns are considered before land is allocated.

- Operational land use codes are reviewed to ensure potential allocations and land use activities are consistent with the long term land use objectives.

Other Notable Highlights

Lands

- Regional staff represents Manitoba Conservation on the Provincial Shoreline Erosion Technical Committee. High water levels on Lake Winnipeg have created a number of areas along the south basin that are exhibiting significant rates of erosion.
- Construction of initial grade for 5 kilometers of Crown cottage roads and flood dyke at Mill Creek and Pebblestone subdivisions.

Wildlife

- Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) continues to be a highly popular wildlife viewing area, with over 200,000 visitors touring the area on an annual basis. A number of infrastructure improvements were undertaken in 2008, including the construction of a new road to the improved viewing mound at the north end of the marsh, a new foot bridge at the Oak Bluff, and the construction of two new wildlife viewing causeways into the marsh and two water bird loafing bars.
- The Narcisse Snake Dens is one of the world's most significant snake viewing areas, with an estimated 30,000 public visitors and 1,200 school children touring the site in 2008.
- Manitoba Conservation, in cooperation with Skownan First Nation, manages the Chitek Lake wood bison herd as part of the national recovery strategy for wood bison. A complete population survey was completed in early 2009. This information will be used to develop a wood bison management plan anticipated in 2009/10.

Parks

- Continued to integrate the provincial Green Building Policy into the construction of new facilities at Birds Hill and Grand Beach.
- Completion of a new campground office to better serve the public at Birds Hill Park.
- Continued to enhance existing and start development on new campsites and camping facilities at Birds Hill, Camp Morton, Stephenfield and Hnausa as part of the Provincial Camping Initiative.
- Expanded support facilities such as playgrounds to enhance the provincial park experience at Birds Hill, Grand Beach and Camp Morton.
- Initiated plans for the construction of the new Duff Roblin Park.

Table RO.18

12.3(d) Central Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	5,416	95.33	5,631	(215)	
Other Expenditures	1,961		2,036	(75)	
Total 12.3(d)	**7,377**	**95.33**	**7,667**	**(290)**	

Eastern Region

The Eastern Region is comprised of rural towns, First Nation communities, Canadian Shield boreal forest and agricultural lands. The region contains extensive tracts of natural undisturbed areas with the majority of the land not developed for human occupation. As a result, significant economic benefits are derived from natural resource based industries like forestry and from diverse recreational opportunities. Major programs administered by the region include *The Environment Act*, Contaminated Sites, Petroleum Storage, Onsite Wastewater, Solid Waste Management, Parks Operations and Maintenance, Forest Planning and Management, Wildlife Research and Season Regulations, Crown Lands and Wild Fire Protection and Suppression.

The Eastern Regional programs and public services are provided by multi-disciplined full time and seasonal staff working from the Regional Office in Lac du Bonnet and District Offices at Beausejour, Falcon Lake, Hadashville, Lac du Bonnet, Lake Winnipeg East, Pine Falls, Rennie, Seven Sisters, Sprague and West Hawk Lake and Sub-District Offices at Berens River, Little Grand Rapids and Bissett. Public lands administered through these offices include 14 provincial parks, 8 provincial forests, 9 wildlife management areas and 7 ecological reserves.

2008/09 Annual Report Key Results Achieved

Forestry

- On June 27, 2007 a severe windstorm damaged the forest in the northern areas of Whiteshell Provincial Park. An area of 24,000 ha. or an area almost half the size of the City of Winnipeg was impacted. Damage to the forest resource was estimated at one million cubic meters of softwood and hardwood. The regional salvage program developed in 2007/08 continued into a second year.

- Over 167,000 cubic meters of wood was salvage harvested from 1,400 ha. of forested land throughout the winter. The salvage program was concluded at the end of March. Most of the wood was processed and shipped to market.
- Included in the salvage plan and forest renewal activities was the preparation of approximately 1,200 ha. of forest land for planting and natural regeneration and the planting of approximately 790,000 seedlings.

Environment

- Environmental protection continued as a high priority as staff met with Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs and individual rural municipalities to address wastewater treatment and solid waste management infrastructure improvements.
- Environment Officers registered and authorized the installation of 504 onsite wastewater management systems.
- Work continued as a priority in the Livestock program through inspections of new constructions, identification of unregistered manure storage facilities, and response to manure spills, barn fires and complaints.
- Enforcement action by Eastern Region Environment Officers included the issuance of thirty-three (33) Environment Officer Warnings, twenty (20) Environment Officer Orders, two (2) Offence Notices and one (1) Information, and two (2) Director's Order.

Compliance Levels in Excess of 95% for Public Related Complaints

- Regional staff responded to 2,273 District Occurrence Reports from the public related to parks operation and safety, as well as problem wildlife resources related complaints.
- Effective control of park rowdy-ism led to reduced level of public complaints.

Camping initiative Improvement Program in Provincial Parks

- The multi year upgrade of services continued in the West Hawk Lake campground in Whiteshell Provincial Park with new electrical, water and fully serviced sites. A new shower building was constructed and is now fully operational. The use of green technology was integrated into the design.
- The major upgrade of Toniata Campground was completed. The upgrades included enlarging site, landscaping and new electrical services.

Priority Development in Provincial Parks

- The TransCanada Trail continued to be a priority with expansions undertaken in conjunction with both North and South Whiteshell Trail Associations.
- Upon securing an Environmental License for a full rebuild of the wastewater treatment lagoon at West Hawk Lake, construction began on a multi year construction project
- The reconstruction of the wastewater treatment lagoon at Big Whiteshell Lake was completed.

Boreal Woodland Caribou Program

This program was expanded in 2007 with the hiring of a Caribou Biologist. Accomplishments through 2008/09 included:

- Co-ordination and chairing of regular meetings of the Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee, a multi-stakeholder body comprised of 11 partners representing government, industry, NGOs, academics, communities and others.
- Monitoring of 45 radio collared caribou within 5 populations on the east side of Lake Winnipeg to obtain information on their status, movements and habitat use.
- Major emphasis on research related to the Owl Lake herd: e.g. assessment of calf recruitment/adult survival rates and effects monitoring of an experimental forest harvest.

Regional Concerns are Considered Before Land is Allocated

- Regular reviews by Resource Managers representing Crown Lands, Forestry, Wildlife, Fisheries, Environment, Provincial Parks and District Operations are undertaken in advance of the issuance of significant permits or land allocations and in response to department circulation of projects.

Table RO.19
12.3(e) Eastern Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Estimate 2008/09		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,376	80.30	4,462	(86)	
Other Expenditures	1,102		1,110	(8)	
Total 12.3(e)	**5,478**	**80.30**	**5,572**	**(94)**	

Western Region

The Western Region is an extremely diverse area which encompasses a range of land based development and activities from urban centres to intensive agricultural and industrial development to remote undeveloped natural habitat. The region reaches from the American border on the south to the northern end of Lake Winnipegosis and is geographically divided in half by the Riding Mountain National Park. It was formerly two regions (South West region and Western Region) and while functioning as one region much of the administration and management is completed by two distinct sub-regions.

The region contains 58% of the Rural Municipalities in the province and is the second most populated area of the province next to the Red River region. Agricultural land use predominates the region while the northern portion supports a significant portion of the provinces forestry industry. As a result of this agricultural land use there are significant problem wildlife issues (beaver, coyote, and elk depredation). The region contains 5 well known natural topographic features in the form of the Turtle, Riding, Duck and Porcupine Mountains as well as Lake Winnipegosis. In addition Lake of the Prairies is one of the premier walleye fisheries in the province. Recreational and Commercial use of natural resources within the region are a major economic stimulus in the region. There are 21 provincial parks in the region. The region contains the majority of outfitters in the province. There are major industrial and agricultural processing industries in the region including Maple Leaf Foods, Louisiana Pacific, Canexus (formerly Nexus), Koch (formerly Simplot), Ayherst Organics and Hazco.

All of the above use and activities require extensive administration and monitoring under the Wildlife, Fisheries, Forestry, Parks, Crown Lands and Environment Acts and regulations and associated programs.

2008/09 Annual Report Key Results Achieved

Cost-effective and professional delivery of field services to the public.

- Regional Staff continued to assist in the field delivery of the Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) implementation plan developed by the TB task Group. This program continued with the barrier fencing program.
- Staff assisted in investigating exotic wildlife issues in Swan River and Roblin districts
- Over $892,538.48 in timber revenue was collected in the Swan River Forestry Regional Office.
- District work plans continue to be implemented and refined to meet priority objectives.

% of anglers checked and % of hunters checked.

- Increased emphasis on decoy and check stop programs.
- Enforcement blitz used in pockets of problem areas resulting in greater sharing of Resource Officers in the Region to achieve objectives.
- Natural Resource Officer's concentrated enforcement efforts on the period before and after rifle deer season dates to detect and apprehend illegal hunters.
- District staff continued to work closely with Special Investigations Unit on specific unlawful hunting and fishing intelligence.

New initiatives to effectively reduce illegal traffic in fish and wildlife.

- Regional staff participated in monitoring and enforcement efforts on Lake Dauphin and its respective tributaries during the spring walleye spawn.
- Natural Resource Officers and Special Investigations Unit staff continued to investigate illegal fish sales particularly in the north half of the Region.
- Conducted aerial and ground surveillance for illegal baiting and feeding of wildlife in Game Hunting Areas 23/23A, 18/18A/18B/18C, around Riding Mountain National Park and Duck Mountain Provincial Park and Forest.
- An investigation was launched into unlawful exotic and native wildlife held at a Game Farm near Minitonas.
- In response to increased complaints a number of night patrols were conducted by district enforcement staff, including two that were assisted by an aircraft. One patrol resulted in the illegal night hunters attempting to flee from the patrol units.
- Regional Staff have initiated compliance inspections for exotic wildlife farms.

Control of park rowdyism and reduced level of related public complaints; increase in the level of visitor satisfaction within provincial parks.

- Initial phase of major campground expansions were commenced at Wellman Lake in the Duck Mountain Provincial Park as well as Rivers Provincial Park in order to enhance visitor experiences and satisfaction.

Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.

- Regional Wildlife staff continued moose management presentations on declining moose population with local user groups and First Nations around Duck Mountain Provincial Park and Porcupine Provincial Forest.
- Participated with Forestry Crown Consultation process with Louisiana Pacific Long-Term Forestry Management Plan.
- Initiated Crown consultation process with 33 aboriginal communities regarding 2009-10 Annual Operating Plans produced by Louisiana Pacific and Mountain Quota holders Association in the Mountain Forest Section.
- Completed First Nations consultation and amendment to Louisiana Pacific Annual Operating Plan involving development of Vimy Ridge Road and closure of the Ketchum Tower Road in the Duck Mountain Provincial Forest.

Minimize the number of complaints related to problem wildlife.

- Districts adjacent to Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP) worked with RMNP staff in accepting a few problem black bears around the park and reintroducing them back into the park with continued monitoring of the program by park staff.
- A problem predator workshop was conducted at Austin and a problem beaver workshop at Roblin with instructions on trapping techniques, predator calling and pond leveler installation.
- The "Bears and Bees" project in the Ethelbert area continued. Four outfitters maintain approximately 20 electric fences around chronic bee-yard depredation sites to assist Manitoba's largest honey producer. Nuisance bear harvest is significantly reduced and no fences were breached by bears.
- Coyote populations remained high with a significant number of complaints received. A problem predator control program has been extended in co-operation with Manitoba Agricultural and Food Services Corporation and the Manitoba Trappers Association to assist cattle producers with depredation issues.
- Work continues with cattle producers to prevent Big Game depredation to stored hay. Negotiations were held with three local producers (Swan River, Ethelbert and Grandview) to erect hay protection barrier fences.
- Assistance relative to wildlife and bio-diversity was provided to the Little Saskatchewan River, Turtle Mountain and Upper Assiniboine River Conservation Districts in developing management plans for watersheds
- Staff participated on the Prairie skink recovery team for the Shilo ranges and the Parkland Habitat Partnership in the Duck Mountain / RMNP wildlife corridor.
- Timber wolf predation increased in the area south of PTH #1 adjacent to the north/east side of Spruce Woods Provincial Park.
- Cougar complaints and sightings increased in the north east corner of the Carberry district area.
- Wild boars were sighted in Spruce Woods Provincial Park, two were subsequently destroyed.

- Whitewater Lake continued to attract visitors from all around the world as a high profile destination for birding. Staff began work on watchable wildlife projects at Whitewater Lake and Gerald Malaher WMA near Melita.
- Completed preplan mitigation of Louisiana Pacific Canada and Mountain Quota Holders 2009/10 Annual Operating Plans.
- Implemented proposed Timber Administration System changes with industry and regional staff through presentation meetings and correspondence.
- Forestry Compliance Activity direction developed for implementation by all staff involved in Forestry Compliance activities.
- Completed 510 cull, defect and undersize plots, measuring 17,871 timber samples at Louisiana Pacific, Spruce Products Limited and Riehl Lumber mills as part of provincial scaling program.
- Planted 167,400 conifer seedlings on 104.2 ha Crown Land including a 6.5 ha area in the Spruce Woods Provincial Forest.
- Completed hardwood test surveys as part of Hardwood renewal standard review relating to survey timing – 6 blocks 315 plots (surveyed 3 years after harvest) 8 blocks, 304 plots (re-surveyed 5 years after harvest).
- Obtained permit and completed first year monitoring survey at Cowan Bog Ecological Reserve – orchid survey and plot establishment.
- Assisted in completion of Land Use code reviews in 14 Townships within RM of Manitoba.

Table RO.20

12.3(f) Western Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,708	83.01	4,663	45	
Other Expenditures	1,495		1,569	(74)	
Total 12.3(f)	**6,203**	**83.01**	**6,232**	**(29)**	

Park Operations and Maintenance

Details regarding Park Operations and Maintenance are included within each of the regions that deliver this program.

Table RO.21
12.3(g) Park Operations and Maintenance

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	13,651	226.32	13,237	414	
Other Expenditures	6,259		6,269	(10)	
Recoverable from Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(472)		(472)	0	
Total 12.3(g)	**19,438**	**226.32**	**19,034**	**404**	

Fire and Emergency Response Program

Fire Summary

- The fire season of 2008 can be classified as a "below average" fire season. Five weeks in the latter part of May and June constituted the busiest period of the fire season.
- Over the winter precipitation was normal in most areas with the exception of the Northwest and Southeast portions of the Province, resulting in a very dry spring.
- One large human-caused fire occurred in the Sandlilands Provincial Forest (Woodridge) in the Eastern Region followed by two large human-caused fires in the Sherridon (Bess Lake) and Grand Rapids (Norris Lake) areas of the Northwest Region in late May. Several human-caused fires of concern were also active in the Northeast Region at the same time. Crews and aircraft were brought in from other provinces to assist in the suppression efforts.
- General rain showers began the first week of July dampening the traditional July lightning fire season.
- A drying trend occurred in early August and extended to the end of the month when the rains returned. It was during this two to three week period that the hottest temperatures (30°C) of the summer occurred.
- Two low pressure storm tracks occurring in late August into early September, brought rain with exceptionally high levels (100+ millimeters) through the Central and Eastern areas of the province Park.

Fire Investigations

- As reported by the regions in weekly reports, the following statistics apply to human caused wildfires:
  - 238 human caused fires reported;
  - 193 fires investigated, 70 by fire investigators, 123 by other district staff;
  - 45 fires were not investigated;

- 72 accidental caused fires;
- 102 intentional caused fires of which 47 were suspected to have been arson;
- 53 negligence caused fires;
- 20 unknown caused fires;
- 3 prosecutions under *The Wildfires Act*;
- 3 prosecutions under the Criminal Code; and
- 6 warnings.

Air Operations

The 2008 spring fire season proved to be fairly active for Manitoba aviation resources, but the remainder of the fire season was slower than normal. Manitoba received quick strike assistance from Ontario and Saskatchewan. The Northwest Territories (6 days), Ontario (16 days) and Quebec (7 days) were deployed in Manitoba to supplement the Manitoba fleet. Manitoba was able to provide assistance to Ontario and Saskatchewan through quick strike missions. SEAT aircraft were hired for a total of 25 days (35 days in 2007) supplementing Manitoba's CL-215 fleet and were positioned for community protection, new fire starts and sustained fire action.

Manitoba's Air Attack Program experienced significant staff shortages this year. As a result, and on three separate occasions Minnesota provided Air Tactical Group Supervisors for an approximate total of 30 days. The staff was utilized to give Manitoba Air Attack Officers days off. This use of US staff would not have been so easily possible without membership in the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact. Ontario also provided Air Attack Officers for a total of 6 days.

Manitoba helicopter operations were also very active in the spring with the long-term helicopter contracts being supplemented by casual hire helicopters. This year Manitoba had 6 helicopters on long term contracts. The estimated total for aircraft expenditures will be approximately $15.0 million compared to $14.0 million in 2007. Below is a breakdown of the flying hours to date (September 9). This represents 8,686 flight hours (6,852 hrs in 2007) with minimal reported incidents.

Field Operations

This fire season once again started fast and continued at a strong pace for awhile. Three large fires requiring Incident Management Team deployment were actioned early in the season; two of which required a simultaneous deployment of two teams in the same region. A large complex fire in the northwestern part of the province was also actioned with primarily Regional resources. Additionally, assistance with specialized fire expertise was provided to the neighboring province of Saskatchewan with a fire that was threatening the Manitoba provincial border. July is usually the busiest month for fire suppression activities. This year it proved to be unusually slow due to weather. Field audits of helicopters (short term hire and contract) were conducted throughout the province. District and Regional operations received safety and operational assessments throughout the province. In order to provide for remote fire crew safety, new satellite phones were purchased and deployed to alleviate operational gaps experienced with the current system provider.

Science & Technology
Weather

Extensive computer programming occurred to automate the retrieval, creation, and ingestion of the 1 through 5 day forecasts from Environment Canada's (EC) Global Environmental Models (regional & global GEM). This automation has eliminated data entry errors and has the forecast available for fire managers 40 minutes earlier than in previous years. In addition to this it has allowed for the creation of many new internal weather products such as value added weather charts & graphs as well as Google Earth displays.

The weather section worked very closely with the Manitoba Hydro Operations Center to develop a warning system that maps the proximity of known fires and MODIS hotspots to hydro transmission lines. These Hydro Proximity Reports (HPR) have enabled Manitoba Hydro to quickly access operational fire data and maps inside their response center using common tools such as Google Earth and dynamic html reports.

The Fire Program tendered for lightning data services and selected the Pelmorex (The Weather Network); Lightning Data Network (LDN) over the existing Environment Canada; Canadian Lightning Detection Network (CLDN). The new lightning data contract with Pelmorex is 10 years in duration starting in 2008 and ending in 2017.

Three weather stations (Hart Mountain, Spider Hill, Cache Lake) were converted to transmit data over the GOES weather satellite, as Manitoba Telecom Services MTS indicated that analog cellular service will end during 2009. Stations that were on analog cell but not within the digital coverage area were converted to GOES to ensure data collection was not interrupted during the 2009 fire season. Fire crews assisted with weather station site cleanups as clearing sizes were pushed back and underbrush vegetation thinned to allow for accurate temperature and wind readings. The weather section delivered an intermediate weather course for fire staff who would be attending the Advance Fire Behaviour Course during the off season.

Fire Mapping

Ongoing development occurred with the in-house GPS mapping software (OPSGPS) to permit the crew that suppresses the fire to easily map the fire with a handheld GPS. This mapping initiative involved hands on GPS training with fire crews as part of their annual crew training. Classroom GPS theory coupled with outdoor practical exercises have empowered fire line crews to quickly and accurately map and upload fires to Winnipeg by plugging their GPS into any managed computer.

Project Fire Deployments

Science & Technology concurrently deployed IT services at two Project Fires: Norris Lake (NW024) and Sherridon (NW020). These deployments included weather and satellite services at both locations complete with network, email, internet, and print services. The Norris Lake project involved a Ka satellite dish supporting 4 computers, and the Sherridon deployment utilizied a Ku band dish to support 2 computers. High speed internet enabled the Project Team to access weather and mapping products for daily weather briefings and decision making purposes. The Sherridon fire utilized Voice over IP (VOIP) phone service and a TCP/IP fax solution. This satellite technology permitted fast and efficient transport of weather, fire images and mapping products between the incident, the region, and headquarters.

Prevention

Fire prevention advertising once again began early and worked north with the fire season. Advertising consisted of newspaper and radio ads as well as ad placement within publications such as the Manitoba Angling Guide and other select publications. Radio ads also aired on radio stations throughout the province including Native Communications Radio Network and some northern radio stations. Some advertising was also developed geared to the fall resource users and placed in the outdoor features of select newspapers. Target specific advertising involving fire safety geared towards All Terrain Vehicle users was developed in the form of safety posters and distributed.

Prevention materials were again provided for distribution through the Manitoba Association of Native Fire Fighters. Smokey Bear fire prevention materials were ordered through the USDA national symbols cache and distributed throughout the Manitoba fire regions. The prevention program was supplemented with handouts including litter bags, coffee travel mugs, knives, and key/bottle holders and flashlights.

Training

Fireline training conducted in the past year includes the following:

- 180 Initial Attack Crew Members (Type I) were trained and certified to CIFFC Exchange Standards (included S-100, Skills, First Aid, WHMIS, TDG, Chainsaw Safety and Hover Exit Certification);
- 40 new Emergency Fire Fighters (Type II) were trained to CIFFC Exchange Standards;
- Approximately 200 Emergency Fire Fighters (Type III) were trained and certified or recertified; and
- 20 Emergency Fire Fighter Crew Leaders (Type III) were trained and certified or recertified.

Additional Training included:

40 persons	- Crew Leader (S-230);
28 persons	- I-200 Basic Incident Command;
29 persons	- I-300 Intermediate Incident Command;
2 persons	- L-380 Fire-line Leadership;
8 persons	- Complex Incident Management;

- S-290 Intermediate Fire Behaviour; and
- S-590 Advanced Wildland Fire Behaviour.

Numerous First Aid / CPR, Transportation of Dangerous Goods, WHMIS, and Radio Operator courses were held as well.

Equipment

The Provincial Fire Equipment Working Group continues in maintenance status as well as continual research and development and upgrades.

The Fire Program has gone "green" on disposable items such as paper plates, cups, forks, knives and spoons required by fire staff on suppression efforts. Research for non-petroleum based products was conducted over a two year period with desirable products found and procured. The items are biodegradable and are compostable. The products are made from potato, sugar cane or corn. These products are for use on large incidents only and are stocked in the mobile warehouses. Washable dishes along with stainless steel cutlery are to be used by initial attack crews and fireline staff on a normal basis.

Stainless steel cooking utensils have been purchased to replace aluminum and enamel cook wear.

An "eco friendly" corn water bottle has been sent out for testing by initial attack crews. The water bottle will be used by initial attack crews and emergency fire fighters, replacing the regular water bottle. The container comes complete with built in water filter that can be used for 90 refills and will totally biodegrade in 80 days. The product, when accepted, will considerably cut down the use of bottled water and recycle requirements.

Fire Operations

The Provincial Fire Centre was busy during the spring with the training of staff members that were either new or seconded on short term into the Operations Centre.

One seasonal helicopter tender for a Bell 212 was issued and awarded for 3-year terms to bring the Manitoba complement to 6 long-term contracts.

A total of 63 Provincial Resource Orders were received and filled for provincial mobilizations during the 2008 fire season.

Several aircraft and personnel imports were carried out with Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Quebec, and the Northwest Territories during the spring fire season through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) Mutual Aid Resource Sharing Agreement. Imports were also carried out with Minnesota through the Border Co-operation Agreement.

Manitoba also assisted Saskatchewan with quick strikes and helitorch activities through border co-operation.

Table R0.22

2008 - Number of Fires and Area Burned by Region and Cause

2008	Northeast		Northwest		Western		Central		Eastern		Province	
CAUSE	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)
recreation	28	30.7	12	11.5	4	1,267.7	1	1.0	8	3,397.9	**53**	**4,708.8**
settlement	38	593.7	4	1.0			6	121.6	9	35.0	**57**	**751.3**
woods operations	1	10.0	1	35.0	1	0.4	1	127.5	11	7.4	**15**	**180.3**
other industry			4	4.0			1	6.7	2	0.9	**7**	**11.6**
railroads			13	10,478.3					1	2.3	**14**	**10,480.6**
public projects	4	2,272.5	1	0.5					15	17.2	**20**	**2,290.2**
incendiary	26	16.6	1	0.1	12	94.6	14	472.0	6	1,362.8	**59**	**1,946.1**
miscellaneous	6	85.6	3	53,012.8	1	1.0	9	801.0	10	106.7	**29**	**54,007.1**
agricultural							5	27.3			**5**	**27.3**
lightning	81	76,851.2	41	523.8			1	75.0	14	12.7	**137**	**77,462.7**
all causes	**184**	**79,860.3**	**80**	**64,067.0**	**18**	**1,363.7**	**38**	**1,632.1**	**76**	**4,942.9**	**396**	**151,866.0**

Table R0.23

2008 - Number of Fires and Area Burned by Priority Zone and Action Status

2008	Actioned Fires				No Action Fires				Limited Action Fires				All Fires			
ZONE	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned
RED	241	72.37%	72,109.4	98.66%	5	11.63%	10.7	0.03%	7	35.00%	1,470.2	3.78%	253	63.89%	73,590.3	48.46%
YELLOW	3	0.90%	88.1	0.12%									3	0.76%	88.1	0.06%
GREEN	72	21.62%	368.5	0.50%	3	6.98%	415.6	1.04%	1	5.00%	3.0	0.01%	76	19.19%	787.1	0.52%
WHITE	17	5.11%	525.3	0.72%	35	81.40%	39,460.5	98.93%	12	60.00%	37,414.7	96.21%	64	16.16%	77,400.5	50.97%
ALL ZONES	333	100.0%	73,091.3	100.0%	43	100.0%	39,886.8	100.0%	20	100.0%	38,887.9	100.0%	396	100.0%	151,866.0	100.0%

Red Zone	Full fire suppression
Yellow Zone	Suppression if resources available
Green Zone	Suppression if resources available
White Zone	No suppression unless values are at risk

Table R0.24

2008 - Area burned by Priority Zone

2008	Zone Area (ha.)	Hectares Burned	% of zone burned
Red	11,415,633.5	73,590.3	0.645%
Yellow	685,691.0	88.1	0.013%
Green	9,770,018.8	787.1	0.008%
White	23,081,244.9	77,400.5	0.335%
All Zones	**44,952,588.2**	**151,866.0**	**0.338%**

Figure 3

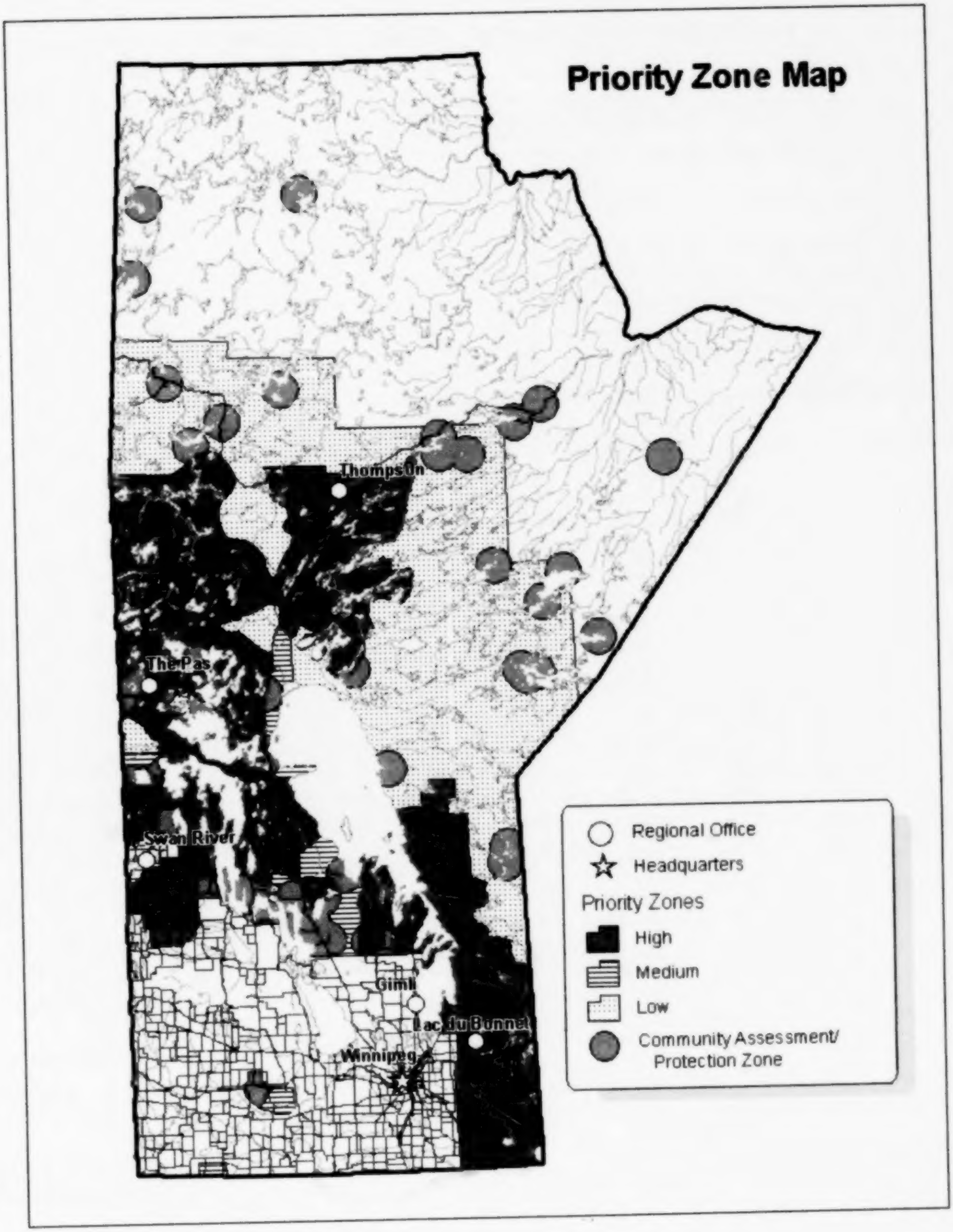
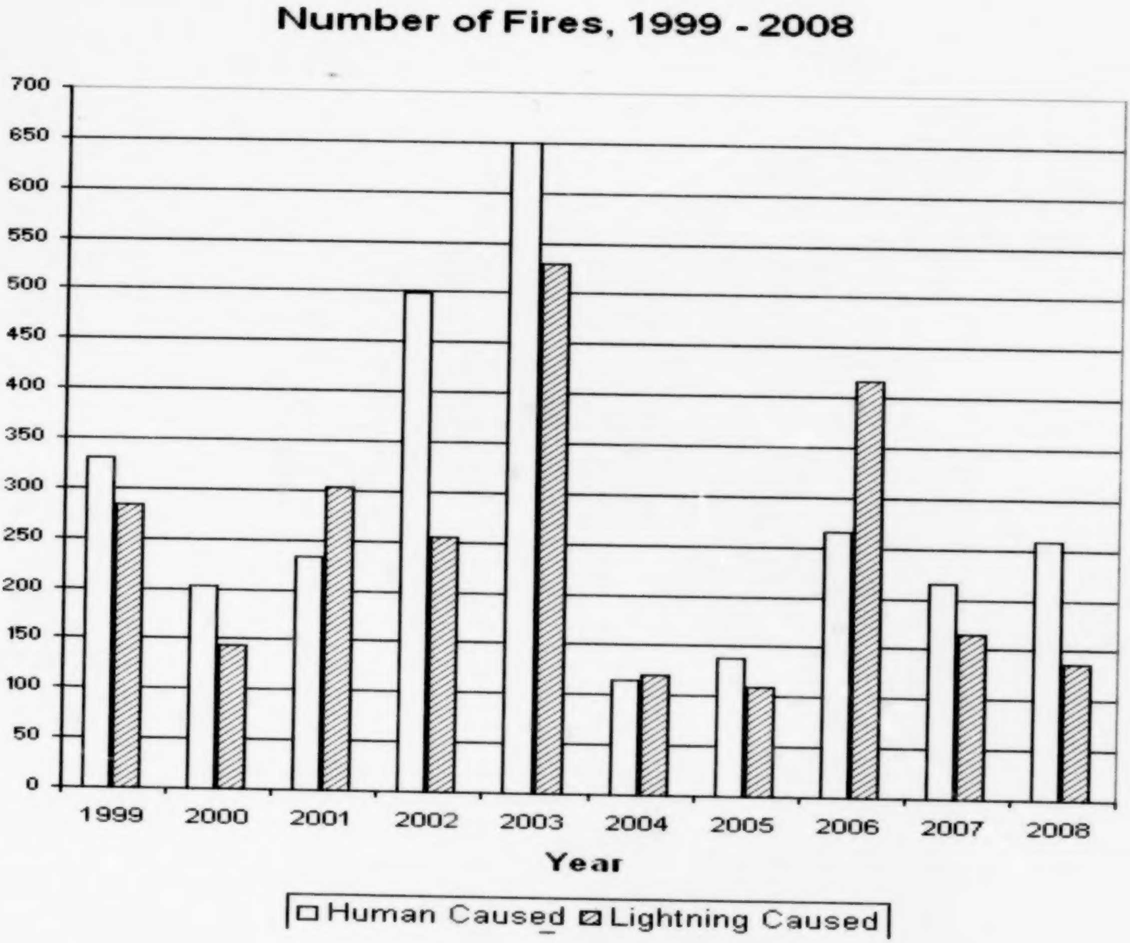

Priority Zone Map
Thompson
The Pas
Swan River
Gimli
Lac du Bonnet
Winnipeg
○ Regional Office
☆ Headquarters
Priority Zones
■ High
▤ Medium
□ Low
● Community Assessment/ Protection Zone

Figure 4



Number of Fires, 1999 - 2008
700
650
600
550
500
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
Year
□ Human Caused
▨ Lightning Caused

Figure 5

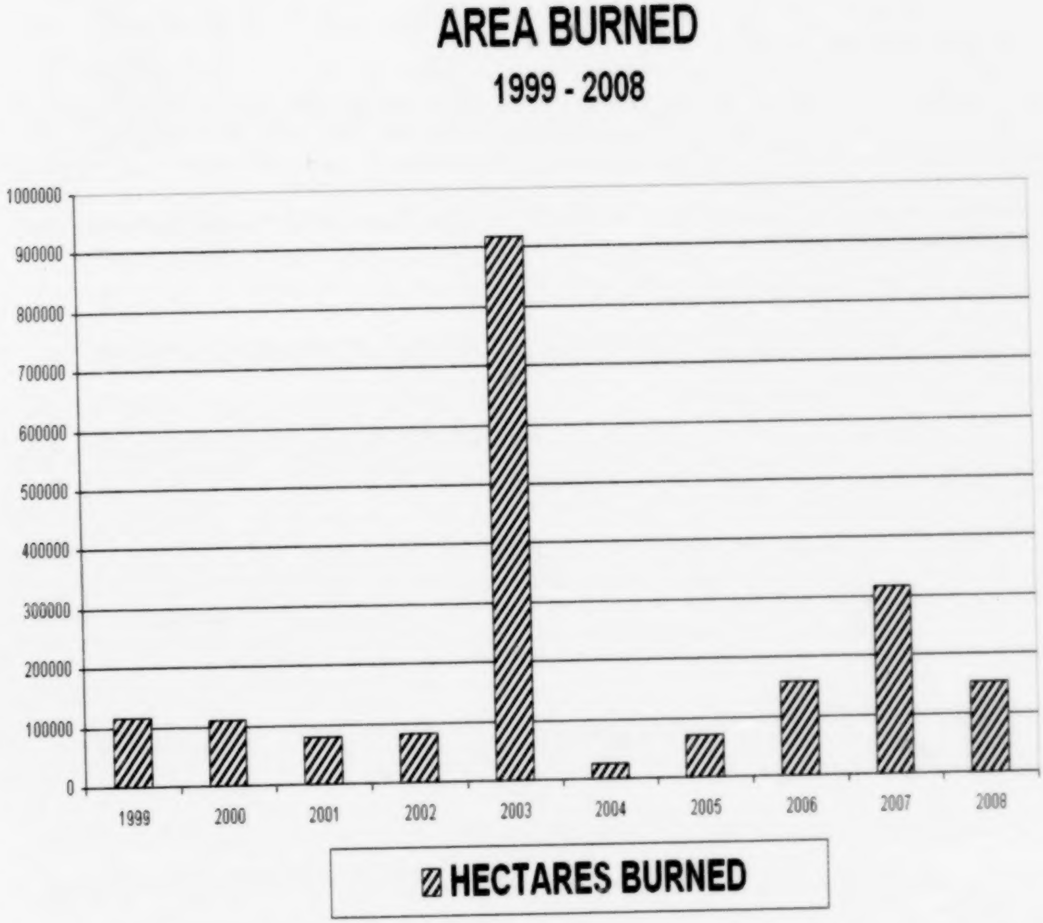


Table RO.25
12.3(h) Fire and Emergency Response Program

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	6,376	70.48	6,447	(71)	
Other Expenditures	10,128		10,426	(298)	
Less: Recoverable from Emergency Expenditures	(410)		(500)	90	
Total 12.3(h)	**16,094**	**70.48**	**16,373**	**(279)**	

Environmental Services

Environmental Services directs and co-ordinates the Livestock Section and the Environment Section, which includes the petroleum program, the dangerous goods program, the hazardous waste program, the contaminated sites program, the onsite wastewater management program and the emergency response program.

Livestock Operations

The primary objective of the Livestock Section is to ensure consistent administration of the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation across the province. This program is supported by the development of procedures, protocols and standards for application by regionally based staff. Regional responsibilities include regular inspection of storage facilities for manure and mortalities, inspection of manure storage facilities during construction, investigation of complaints, response to reports of manure spills and enforcement of regulations.

2008/09 Annual Report Objectives and Key Results Achieved:

Manure storage facilities are constructed, operated and maintained in a manner that minimizes impacts upon human health and the environment.

- Projects involving construction, expansion or modification of manure storage facilities are subject to a Manitoba Conservation permit. 24 permits for construction, modification and repair of manure storage facilities were issued.

- Registration of manure storage facilities that were constructed prior to the regulatory requirements for permits is mandatory. The registration process provides a process to have the environmental performance of these older facilities inspected and assessed regularly. Applications for registration of approximately 475 manure storage facilities have been received to date.

- Operations with 300 animal units or greater are required to submit annual source water analysis reports to Manitoba Conservation. The department received 367 source water monitoring submissions in 2008.

Manure is applied as a fertilizer to farmland in a manner that is consistent with regulatory requirements.

- Manure Management Plans are an effective tool for ensuring the sustainability of livestock production by requiring prior-to-spreading calculation of the rate of manure application that is agronomically appropriate and environmentally sound.

- 497 Manure Management Plans were processed and registered for the 2008 crop year. The department conducted audits on approximately 2% of the plans.

Manure spills are responded to rapidly and cleaned-up effectively in order to minimize impacts upon human health and the environment.

- Producers are required to contact Manitoba Conservation when reportable manure spills occur. Reportable spills include spills that: exceed 10,000 litres; occur during transport; involve manure escaping the boundary of the agricultural operation; or result in manure entering a surface water feature or groundwater.

- Staff responded to approximately 20 manure reportable and not-reportable spills. Most spills were relatively minor and many involved failures in couplings, cleanout blockage or sections of manure pipelines during pumping.

- There were three significant spills, two of approximately 100,000 L and 60,000 L reported to staff. All were properly cleaned up and pose no long term risk to the environment.

Program delivery is consistent and livestock producers are treated equitably across the province.

- Extension efforts continue to be a priority for the program.
- Staff met on numerous occasions during the year with livestock producers, most producer organizations, environmental advocacy groups, municipal governments, other government agencies and the general public to communicate regulatory requirements.

There is wide awareness of regulatory requirements among livestock producers and certainty that the requirements are being enforced.

- Most commonly committed offences that warranted action continue to involve improper disposal or storage of mortalities and spillage, escape or improper storage of manure.
- Table RO.1 summarizes enforcement of environmental livestock regulations since 1998.

Table RO.26
12.3(i)1 Livestock Operations

Expenditures by Total Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	347	9.00	628	(281)	
Other Expenditures	480		1,083	(603)	
Total 12.3(i)1	**827**	**9.00**	**1,711**	**(884)**	1.

1. Under expenditure in Salaries, Employee Benefits and Other Expenditures is due to part year implementation of the Manure Management Phosphorus Amendment and Manure Management and Licensing initiatives.

Environmental Operations

The primary objectives of the Environmental Operations Section are to develop environmental regulations, operational guidelines, policies and procedures and to coordinate delivery of environmental programs administered by the Regional Operations Division. Program areas focus on hazardous waste, petroleum storage, contaminated sites, environmental remediation, onsite wastewater management, emergency response and other matters related to the environment. The Environment Operations Section provides technical support to regional offices, the Department, and external clients to enable compliance with and promote understanding of environmental programs. The section also oversees the Department's Environmental Management System (EMS) computer database.

Environment Section staff represent the Department on national committees such as *The Canadian Environmental Protection Act* National Advisory Committee, Canadian Standards Association Technical Committee on Decentralized Wastewater Systems, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Soil Quality Guidelines Task Group, and the CCME Committee on Health and Environment.

2008/09 Annual Report Objectives and Key Results Achieved:

Consistent awareness and program delivery across the regions for Environment programs.

- A new centrally delivered Engineering Section was established to provide engineering support for regional staff across the province.

Commercial clients have access to information, permits and training which enables them to comply with legislated requirements governing petroleum storage tanks, hazardous waste, onsite wastewater systems, contaminated sites, and miscellaneous environmental programs.

- Existing program specific information on the Department's website was revised and updated.
- For more information, visit http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/envprograms/index.html
- Staff responded to requests for file searches for program specific information.

Confirmation of the value of the Department's environmental liabilities and progressive remediation of contaminated sites.

- The Environmental Remediation Program completed its assessment phase and identified $103.4 million in potential environmental liabilities for which the Department is or may become responsible.
- Remediation was undertaken on priority sites in Brandon and Grosse Isle.

Environmental emergencies are responded to and cleaned up in ways that minimize damage to the environment.

- The Emergency Response Program received over 2552 calls to the Emergency Response 24-hour line, with 486 calls handled directly by the Emergency Response Team and/or regional designates.
- The Emergency Response Team and regional designates maintained operational readiness through a range of ongoing environmental emergency training.
- The Emergency Response Team assisted police forces with the identification, removal, and disposal of chemicals found in clandestine drug operations and marijuana grow operations, and helped evaluate the extent of contamination at the site for remediation purposes.

Table RO.27
12.3(i)2 Environmental Operations

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	**Actual 2008/09**	**Estimate 2008/09**		**Variance Over/(Under)**	**Expl. No.**
	$(000)	**FTE**	**$(000)**	**$(000)**	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	621	16.00	835	(214)	
Other Expenditures	534		660	(126)	
Total 12.3(i)2	**1,155**	**16.00**	**1,495**	**(340)**	1.

1. Under expenditure in Salaries, Employee Benefits and Other Expenditures is due to part year implementation of the Onsite Wastewater Management System Program.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Divisional administration provides strategic management of Manitoba's natural resources and environment (parks, lands, forests and wildlife) in keeping with the principles of sustainable development.

Divisional Administration

Divisional administration provides strategic management of Manitoba's natural resources and environment (parks, lands, forests and wildlife) in keeping with the principles of sustainable development.

Table CP.1

12.4(a) Divisional Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	160	2.00	183	(23)	
Other Expenditures	368		389	(21)	
Total 12.4(a)	**528**	**2.00**	**572**	**(44)**	

Wildlife Enhancement Initiative

The Initiative continued to support wildlife and habitat management projects with funds from a special impost on hunting licences. Hunter-funded projects included:

The operation and maintenance of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs); the production and installation of WMA signs; boundary definition at Peonan Point and the Whitemud Watershed WMAs; and weed control.

A hunting heritage program that supported organizations and events that promote and encourage hunting.

Support for mentored hunting events that provide an educational experience to encourage hunting among Manitoba's youth, women, and other interested individuals. The purpose is to introduce people to the concepts of ethical utilization and stewardship of natural resources, which ultimately contributes to the long-term conservation and management of Manitoba's wildlife mosaic. In 2008, mentored hunting events included workshops, seminars, mentor appreciation days, and mentored hunts for waterfowl, wild turkeys and deer. Interest and participation is increasing annually and the program is adapting to meet newly identified demands. The contributions of partner agencies and dedication of volunteers throughout the province has resulted in a program that serves as a model to other provinces. The program is expected to see further expansion in 2009, with more hunt locations and increased opportunities, especially for adults. Incentives to youth remain important to participation, as evidenced by the 3,600 youths that purchased the youth hunting license package in 2008.

The Department's Alice Chambers-Hyacinth Colomb student assistantship program provides project funding and guidance for undergraduate or graduate students undertaking academic research that will assist the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch manage wildlife, including species at risk. In 2007/08, the Department provided financial assistance and guidance to university students for two projects: Prairie Skink and Hognose Snake. Information from these projects will be used by the Wildlife and Ecosystem Branch to identify new occurrences of these species in Manitoba, associated habitat and management activities that will help conserve these rare and endangered species.

Surveys on caribou, deer, elk and moose were conducted in Game Hunting Areas 3, 23/23A (west portion), 13/13A, and 36.

Support was provided to the Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre for diagnostic services for wildlife diseases.

Table WH.1
12.4(b) Wildlife Enhancement Initiative

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	212	0.00	225	(13)	
Total 12.4(b)	**212**	**0.00**	**225**	**(13)**	

Parks & Natural Areas

Description

Parks and Natural Areas Branch is responsible for managing Provincial Parks, Ecological Reserves and Canadian Heritage Rivers, for the long-term benefit of Manitobans and the environment. These lands protect unique, representative or outstanding natural, cultural, and heritage features and resources, conserve ecosystems, and provide recreational and educational opportunities to approximately 5 million visitors each year. The Branch also has a prominent role in identification and establishment of other protected and natural areas.

Key Results Achieved

Generated $11.7 million in revenue by persons using the parks for personal enjoyment, commercial and general use.

Park Visitation exceeded 4.8 million visitors with campsite reservations of just over 55,000.

Enhancements under the Provincial Camping Initiative continued. West Hawk Lake and Toniata campgrounds in Whiteshell Provincial Park received significant upgrades and a camping bay in Turtle Mountain Provincial Park was electrified. In addition, construction was initiated on a major expansion of Wellman Lake campground in Duck Mountain Provincial Park. Construction also began on yurts at Stephenfield and Camp Morton Provincial Parks and new Family Vacation Cabins at Hecla Provincial Park. Playground upgrades occurred at several locations around the province.

Consultations were completed on Amisk Park Reserve, Duff Roblin Park Reserve, and the New Duff Roblin Park Reserve. Amisk Park Reserve was renewed for a further five years. The original Duff Roblin Park Reserve located north of Winnipeg on the Floodway was deleted from the park system plan and the New Duff Roblin Park Reserve located at the south Floodway Inlet Control Structure was designated Duff Roblin Provincial Park.

The Manitoba-Ontario Interprovincial Wilderness Area was established in June 2008, fulfilling a commitment of the Atikaki Provincial Park Management Plan.

The Park Districts section administered about 6,300 vacation homes on leased, permitted and private lands in Parks. Three hundred sixty-nine (369) permits were issued for cottage construction or structural modification; approximately 230 leasehold inspections were carried out; and various land use permits were issued. The Commercial Operations unit managed relations with private-sector business operators and special consideration organizations to ensure high-quality services for visitors.

New and enhanced campground facilities continued to be developed under the Provincial Camping Initiative including "comfort camping" products such as yurts and cabins.

Administration

Description

The Administration Section is responsible for establishing strategic direction and guidelines, ensuring conformity to Department policies and government goals and assessing the effectiveness of programs and services offered to the public. This section provides many functions including administrative and human resources support, capital budget coordination and the management of fees collected from Park users, commercial concessions, and the leased properties. Work programs are reviewed to ensure that goals are met and that expenditures conform to estimates, legislation, and policies. The Branch participates on the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board and the Canadian Parks Council. Grants were provided to the International Peace Garden, Manitoba Wildlife Foundation (upkeep and public programs at FortWhyte Alive), Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters (water safety public education and programming) and Canadian Parks Council (for the promotion and management of parks).

Key Results Achieved

- Managed park programs and facilities in accordance with policies, procedures and standards to meet branch, department and government goals. Developed park programs and facilities according to the branch current and capital spending estimates.

- Generated $11.7 million in revenue by persons using the parks for personal enjoyment, commercial and general use.

- Conducted the activities of Parks and Natural Areas in a manner consistent with policy, the departmental mission, and government priorities.

- Provided grants to organizations who implemented activities in accordance with branch policy, departmental mission, and government priorities.

- The Parks District Service review process continued, in consultation with cottagers and commercial operators located in provincial parks.

Planning and Development

Description

The Planning and Development Section prepares land-use plans, development plans, policies, and regulations to guide establishment, management, and development of the Park system, to:

- Conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity;
- Preserve unique and representative natural, cultural and heritage resources; and
- Provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities and experiences in a natural setting.

The Section guides establishment and management of new Provincial Parks and Ecological Reserves, and manages the Canadian Heritage Rivers program in Manitoba. The Section undertakes environmental licensing and land-use allocation reviews, completes park management plans and provides design services for the park system.

Over the 2008/09 year, staff from the section participated in additional programs both internal to the branch and to other agencies. Examples include:

- Support to the Protected Areas Initiative;
- Support to the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site Initiative;
- Participation on the Canadian Heritage Rivers System Technical Planning Committee;
- Participation on the Floodway Recreation Committee;
- Participation in the Southeast Groundwater Management Planning Group;
- Provide support and advice to the development of facilities and infrastructure across the park system;
- Review of building and lot development proposals for leaseholders in the Hecla Heritage Village;
- Review of development related to the Hecla Resort and Spa;
- Review of *Environment Act* proposals, Crown land circulars and related items for proposed developments to assess possible implications on lands of interest to or administered by the Branch (provincial parks, park reserves, ecological reserves);
- Co-ordination of provincial input to national park establishment initiatives; and
- Consultation with stakeholders and the public to advance park system planning, management planning and park development.

Park System Planning

Description

This program is responsible for identifying strategic direction of the Manitoba Provincial Park System, as well as establishing both new and revised park boundaries, classifications, primary park goals and objectives, and Land Use Categories. This is done via consultation involving the public, stakeholders, First Nations and government agencies. A major function at present is undertaking the review process required to confirm permanent designations for existing Park Reserves.

Key Results Achieved

- Consultations were completed on Amisk Park Reserve, Duff Roblin Park Reserve, and the New Duff Roblin Park Reserve. Amisk Park Reserve was renewed for a further five years. The original Duff Roblin Park Reserve located north of Winnipeg on the Floodway was deleted from the park system plan and New Duff Roblin Park Reserve located at the south Floodway Inlet Control Structure was designated Duff Roblin Provincial Park.

- Consultations continued with Mosakahiken Cree Nation on Little Limestone Lake Park Reserve, working towards a permanent designation of this protected area.

- Involvement continued in discussions towards the creation of a new national park and a World Heritage site.

- Annual Operating Plans for all major logging companies and quota holder associations were reviewed to ensure that harvesting and renewal operations were consistent with regulation and licensing and impacts on ecological reserves, parks, and park visitors were reduced.

Management Planning

Description

The Planning and Development Section is responsible for preparing park management plans, developing park policies and facilitating resource management projects. Development of management plans for individual provincial parks is a requirement of Section 11 of *The Provincial Parks Act*. Management plans address topics such as park use, landscape protection and recreational development, and ensure that the main purposes of the park are considered when land-use decisions are made. They provide details on what land uses are appropriate and ensure that new activities or developments are compatible with the long-term management of the park.

Key Results Achieved

- The Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas Branch Directives were reviewed and a number were updated.

- Continued implementation of previously approved management plans including those for Grand Beach and Atikaki Provincial Parks.

- Establishment of the Manitoba-Ontario Interprovincial Wilderness Area in June 2008, fulfilling a commitment of the Atikaki Provincial Park Management Plan.

- Development continued on the ATV Trails Plan for Duck Mountain Provincial Park in consultation with local stakeholders and the ATV Trail Planning Commissioner.

Design and Development

Description

This Section provides development direction, site planning, and public facility design and mapping. Staff participated on the Watchable Wildlife Working Group with Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and Manitoba Tourism Secretariat; the Shoreline Erosion Technical Committee; and on the Interdepartmental Recreational Trails Committee. The Unit is also responsible for coordination of the Parks Capital Budget and management of infrastructure projects throughout the Park system.

Key Results Achieved

Major projects included:

- Coordination of the Provincial Camping Initiative in provincial parks, including upgrades and expansions of campgrounds. Campgrounds were upgraded in Whiteshell Provincial Park at West Hawk Lake and Toniata and a camping bay at Turtle Mountain Provincial Park was electrified. Yurts were developed at Stephenfield and Camp Morton Provincial Parks. At Hecla Provincial Park, existing family vacation cabins were upgraded and two new cabins were constructed.

- Construction of a major campground expansion of the Wellman Lake campground was initiated and site and architectural plans were completed for construction of a modern washroom/shower building at Wellman Lake and at Childs Lake campgrounds in Duck Mountain Provincial Park.

- The lagoon was upgraded in Whiteshell Provincial Park at West Hawk Lake and a temporary wastewater holding cell was constructed at Grindstone in Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park pending environmental approval of a permanent wastewater treatment lagoon.

- Major playground upgrades occurred at Birds Hill, Camp Morton, Clearwater Lake, Grand Beach, Rainbow Beach, and St. Malo Provincial Parks.

Ecological Reserves

Description

Ecological Reserves are established under *The Ecological Reserves Act* to protect areas with unique and representative plants, animals, geologic features, natural landscapes, and ecological processes.

Key Results Achieved

- Whitemouth Bog Ecological Reserve was established in southeast Manitoba.

- Proposed development activities within and adjacent to ecological reserves and parks were reviewed to determine if they were appropriate and advice was offered on how to mitigate impacts.

- Entry signs were produced for Birch River, Brokenhead Wetland, and Jennifer and Tom Shay Ecological Reserves.

Canadian Heritage Rivers System

Description

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is Canada's national river conservation program. It promotes, protects and enhances Canada's river heritage, and ensures that Canada's leading rivers are managed in a sustainable manner. The CHRS is built on river stewardship, co-operation and public support. Rivers in the CHRS possess outstanding natural and/or cultural values, offer quality recreational opportunities, and showcase the benefits of healthy river environments, now and in the future.

Key Results Achieved

- Involvement in the implementation of the Hayes River Canadian Heritage River System plan. A GIS inventory mapping project was initiated to map natural and cultural features and recreational sites and features along the river.

- Involvement in the implementation of the Red River Canadian Heritage River System plan. Work began on a poster on the Red River intended for public distribution.

Support Services

Description

The Support Services section sets the direction of the outdoor recreation, beach safety and the interpretation programs in Manitoba Provincial Parks and evaluates and implements new initiatives in campground, day-use, backcountry management and outdoor education, as well as customer-service training and volunteer activities. The Section guides and supports Regional Operations in ensuring high-quality outdoor recreational experiences. This includes analysis of operating strategies and procedures, policy review, market research, marketing strategy development, promotion, and statistical compilation and trend evaluation.

Key Results Achieved

Outdoor Recreation Programs

The Recreation Programming Unit is responsible to provide recreational opportunities that are diverse in scope through camping, cabins and yurts, and group use facilities through fair and equitable access to provincial parks. The program must ensure that both field and head office staff provide quality customer service. The Parks Reservation Service is a major component of Recreation Programming.

- Delivery of the recreation programming in Manitoba's provincial parks including camping; cabins and yurts; group use; Parks Reservation Service; and Campground Host.

- Reservations were made available through a call centre, on-line or through 22 campground offices in 2008. Improvements to the system included the streamlining of processes that would improve customer services as well as reduce administrative efforts including the ability to manage existing business and extend services at the campground level; development of faster and secure communication networks for campgrounds.

- New and enhanced campground facilities continued to be developed under the Provincial Camping Initiative including “Comfort Camping” products such as yurts and cabins.

- Promoted park programs and initiatives through newspaper advertisements, news releases and handouts. Information included opening and closing dates, May long-weekend liquor-free camping, an anti-rowdyism campaign, and the Parks Reservation Service. Also included was the distribution of promotional items to community events, non-profit organizations and youth groups.

Beach Safety

The Beach Safety program in Manitoba Parks is primarily focused on public relations and water safety education and is provided under contract at three provincial park beaches (Birds Hill, Grand Beach and Winnipeg Beach). Officers provide onsite water safety education and emergency response as required. Provincial parks offer beach opportunities at 82 other non-staffed locations.

- Manitoba Parks continued to provide a $5,000 grant to the Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters (MCSW) for water safety public education purposes, and was involved in the drowning prevention component of the Provincial Injury Prevention Strategy. The MCSW continued to build its water safety strategy and framework, which included delivery of the Northern Swim Program and the PFD Loaner Program to northern Manitoba communities.

- 911 emergency telephone service was recently introduced to Hecla/Grindstone and Clearwater Provincial Parks, and efforts to implement service for Duck Mountain Provincial Park continue. Birds Hill, Grand Beach, and the south portion of Whiteshell have also received 911 service since 2007, as a result of Conservation's earlier commitment to expand 911 service throughout provincial parks.

- The Beach Safety patrols made over 12,500 contacts with beach visitors at three provincial parks in 2008. 5800 contacts were made regarding public education of parental supervision responsibilities. Public inquiries and injury prevention activities comprised a majority of remaining contact. Five water rescues were performed.

Interpretation

The Interpretation program offers visitors a deeper understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural resources in provincial parks. This in turn assists the public in understanding the goals and programs of the department. Live field programs complemented by publications, outdoor exhibits, and audio-visual materials bring visitors in direct contact with park resources and management. It also undertakes research leading to trail and brochure development and delivery of live programs throughout the park system.

- Delivery of the field program included two full-time interpreters at Birds Hill and Whiteshell provincial parks, and 19 seasonal interpreters. Programs were presented at Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Hecla/Grindstone, Lockport, Paint Lake, River Road, St. Malo, St. Norbert, Spruce Woods, Turtle Mountain and Whiteshell Provincial Parks. In addition, Green Team members provided assistance at these parks. Interpreters contacted about 90,000 visitors at interpreter-led events and in interpretive centres and museums.

- Interpretive trails were upgraded consistent with the work plan and personal interpretive programming was provided in 12 provincial parks.

- Expansion of the personal program to Stephenfield Provincial Park was initiated. The senior KA3 campground attendant accepted this new expanded role and was assisted by a Green Team summer student assigned to the interpretive program.

- Work was initiated to revise and expand the Junior Naturalist and Park Explorer children's programs. Booklets for Whiteshell, Spruce Woods, Birds Hill and Hecla/Grindstone were revised. New activity booklets were developed for Grand Beach Provincial Park and a generic Manitoba Provincial Parks booklet was developed to be distributed at all other provincial park campgrounds. In addition, a booklet titled Nature Detective was developed for our youngest audience aged five and under to be assisted by the child's parents and/or older siblings.

- Work was initiated on the development of a park passport program that would encourage new and current park visitors to visit different provincial parks in nine of the 12 natural regions that make up the province of Manitoba.
- Manitoba Parks received from Interpretation Canada a Gold Award of Excellence in the wayside exhibit category of their non-personal awards program for the interpretive signs developed and installed in 2007 at the various park units along River Road Provincial Heritage Park.
- Four new interactive computer-based exhibits entitled "Nature Calls" were developed for four sites in Whiteshell Provincial Park. They are: Alfred Hole Goose Sanctuary Interpretive Centre, Whiteshell Natural History Museum at Nutimik Lake, West Hawk Lake Geologic Museum and the Falcon Lake Interpretive Workshop.
- The Heritage Properties program was coordinated in Manitoba's Provincial Parks including building assessment and restoration work.
- A new contract was initiated to manage the artefact collection located at St. Norbert Provincial Heritage Park, previously administered by the Fort Garry Historical Society who owns the artefacts.
- Work began on the stabilization and preservation of the monastery ruins located in Trappist Monastery Provincial Heritage Park.

Key Program Outputs

Park Districts Programming	**Amount**
Vacation Homes	6,123
Commercial Operations	132
Special Consideration Organizations	45
Permits for cottage construction or structural modification	369
Revenue Generated	$4.8 million
Leasehold Inspections	230 (+/-)
Outdoor Recreation Programming	**Amount**
Number of visitors	4.8 million
Total Number of campsites	6191
Transient Campsites	4,637 (3,384 available for reservation or 73%)
Seasonal Campsites	1,518
Transient Camping Nights	192,548
Seasonal Camping Nights	45,120
Campgrounds offering reservation	39
Group Use Sites	98
Family Vacation Cabins	29 (at 2 locations)
Yurts	38 (at 5 locations)
Reservations	55,298
Reservation Rate, compared to 2007/08	5,212 more reservations or 10.4% increase
Reservations over Web	63%
Reservations made opening day April 7, 2008	10,365

Park Districts

The Park Districts Section administers the Vacation Home Lot development program, Commercial operations and Special Consideration Organization (SCO) operations under the authority of *The Provincial Parks Act* and regulations including the Park Activities Regulation and the Permits and Leases regulation. The section manages and controls land use activities and developments on vacation home, commercial business, and SCO lots. Management decisions are prescribed in various legislations, regulations and policy guidelines such as The Cottager's Handbook for Manitoba Provincial Parks. The costs of road maintenance, garbage handling, provision of water and sewer and other municipal type services provided to lessees, permittees and private landowners are recovered from those users through an annual invoicing program.

Key Results Achieved

Continuing with the project to revise the methodology for charging park district service fees respecting the provision of municipal type services (roads, garbage, sewer, water, etc.). Data was collected from owners and occupiers relative to both capacity (i.e. bedrooms) and period of use of their properties to better apportion "shares", and as such the burden of cost. The system also considers that all Manitoba Conservation facilities will be assigned representative shares.

Vacation Home Lot Development Program

The Program, in co-operation with the Crown Land and Property Agency, administers about 6,300 vacation homes on leased, permitted and private lands in Parks. With respect to the lot development management aspect of this program 369 permits were issued for cottage construction or structural modification. There were approximately 230 leasehold inspections carried out. This program generated $4.8 million in revenue.

Commercial Operations

This unit manages relations with private-sector business operators to ensure high-quality services for visitors. Approximately 132 commercial operations provide such services as restaurants, stores, accommodation, golf courses, marinas, and beach concessions throughout Manitoba's provincial parks. Also, some 45 Special Consideration Organizations offer various educational, religious, and outdoor recreation programs.

Land Use Activities

Permits were issued for commercial fishing, wild rice cultivation, trapline cabin construction, hay and grazing, scientific research, and mineral claim-staking and exploration

Table PA.1
12.4(c) Parks and Natural Areas

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Estimate 2008/09		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,561	28.42	1,633	(72)	
Other Expenditures	1,421		1,487	(66)	
Grant Assistance	469		469	0	
Total 12.4(c)	**3,451**	**28.42**	**3,589**	**(138)**	

Forestry

The Forestry Branch plans, manages and allocates forest resources for the long-term social, economic and environmental benefit of Manitobans. Crown forests are managed sustainably for all users, and harvest and renewal activities are implemented in a manner that conserves ecosystem diversity. The Forestry Branch reviews Forest Management License plans, and advises regional managers and enforcement personnel on forestry policies and procedures. The branch encourages diversification and growth of the forest industry along with the efficient use of Manitoba's forest resources.

To limit widespread tree mortality and timber losses, levels of protection are provided commensurate with social, economic and environmental values at risk. The branch advises and assists the public and industry with forest health issues on Crown land, private woodlots and urban forests. Standards for reforestation conducted by the province and companies have been established, and the success of forest renewal is monitored by Forestry Branch.

Administration

Branch administration establishes guidelines and ensures practices conform to department policies and government goals. It provides administrative support and personnel duties, prepares annual estimates, ensures expenditures conform to estimates and department policy, controls funds, monitors efficiency and effectiveness of expenditures and co-ordinates development of the annual work plan.

Key Results Achieved

The Manitoba Model Forest was supported by in-kind contributions, including two representatives who sit as directors. The department continued to participate in the Canadian Forest Service's First Nations Forestry Program. A team comprised of First Nation's organizations, industry and government (federal and provincial) delivers this program, which is funded by the federal government.

The branch managed and administered a grant of $200,000 to the Manitoba Forestry Association's woodlot program, which is provided through the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund. This program includes the development of woodlot management plans and technology transfer in the south-eastern, Interlake and western portions of the province.

The branch also provided a grant of $23,400 and staff involvement to support educational programs delivered by the Manitoba Forestry Association, including an environmental education competition, Envirothon.

Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis

The Forest Inventory Program is responsible for creating and maintaining a comprehensive, accurate and ecologically-based database of Manitoba's forests.

Objectives

- establishing standards for data collection by the private sector
- monitoring data collection processes
- aerial photography acquisition, photo-interpretation and database maintenance (geographic information system)
- developing and maintaining a database and digital geographic information system for the distribution of digital and hard copy forest inventory information to industry, government departments and the public, and for monitoring and reporting on sustainability

The Forest Productivity Program manages databases and uses statistical techniques and tools, including models for predicting growth, decay, yield and quality of Manitoba's forests. The program provides the base information to assist in timber supply sustained yield projections, provincial forest management plans and silviculture activities.

Key areas of responsibility include:

- establishing and maintaining permanent sample plots to measure growth rates and the long-term response to silvicultural treatments;
- evaluating and quantifying the productivity of forests and forest lands;
- quantifying the risks and losses in forest stands due to decay;
- developing, evaluating and recommending forest growth projection systems that simulate the growth, yield and quality of commercial tree species in Manitoba; and
- developing co-operative systems of data collection, analysis and transfer with industry and other jurisdictions and the development of related standards.

The Resource Analysis Program is responsible for managing a forest resources information base and for establishing sustainable Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) levels.

Key areas of responsibility include:

- leading the Forestry Branch in producing a timely, reliable, and informative timber supply analysis that reflects current integrated resource management strategies;
- developing methods and models for timber supply analysis;
- establishing provincial AAC levels; and
- evaluating and validating wood supply analysis prepared by industry.

Objectives

- Develop and maintain the provincial forest inventory database that ensures the sustainable development and protection of Manitoba's forest resources.

- Establish and maintain a nationally based series of long-term ecosystem monitoring plots (satellite plots and field plots) across Canada to measure provincial, national and international reporting requirements related to forest sustainability and climate change.

- Accurately predict the growth, yield and quality of Manitoba's forests in order to determine sustainable harvest levels under various forest management practices.

- Determine a reliable, informative and sustainable timber supply that reflects current resource management strategies.

- Maintain a level of expertise to ensure the section is aware of the best knowledge and scientific techniques available.

Key Results Achieved

The Forest Inventory Program

A new multi year Forest Lands Inventory (FLI) was implemented for a 1.5 million hectare portion of the Highrock Forest Section. A tendered imagery contract to capture 50 cm resolution colour and colour infrared mosaics was successfully completed. This imagery, along with base features collected by the Crown Lands and Geomatics Branch, will be used as the inventory base to precisely map forest landscape features.

As part of the FLI initiative, the Forestry Branch tendered the photo-interpretation for the recently acquired imagery in the Highrock Forest Section (1.5 millionhectares). The contract to interpretation and digitally capture of the forest attributes is spread across a three-year time frame. To date, Forestry Branch has received and audited the interpreted forest inventory for the approximate 24 tiles (map sheets – township and range) of Highrock Forest Section. This data meets the first year commitment of the three-year interpretation contract. Additionally, approximately 20,000 hectares of the Grass River Provincial park has been interpreted and captured in the geographic information system format by Branch staff.

The re-measurement phase of Manitoba's Ecosystem Monitoring Network (National Forest Inventory initiative) commenced in 2008/09. A total of 40 photo plots and 9 ground plots were re-measured and delivered to the National Forest Inventory project office for national compilation. These plots were obtained as a component of ongoing inventory programs in an effort to reduce plot re-measurement costs. Twenty-three of the photo plots were captured within the inventory area for the Highrock Forest Section while the remaining 17 were obtained as a result of the five-year orthophoto refresh initiative that is underway for Southern Manitoba. Each of the nine ground plots have been incorporated into the Provincial Permanent Sample Plot (PSP) program.

Forest fires for the 2008/09 season were identified and delineated to determine the impact that fire had on Manitoba's forests. Current capture processes are evolving to incorporate technological advances in the capture of fire boundary data using GPS generated boundaries.

Spatial analyses were conducted for the 10 year review periods 1989/99 and 1999-2009 to quantify the amount of productive forest withdrawn from Forest Management Licence Agreement #2.

Historical paper-based inventories (FMU's 20, 23, 30 and 37) that were in place prior to the implementation of the Branch's Geographic Information System, were digitized and added to the Provincial database. The spatial comparison and evaluation of successive forest inventories on the same geographical land base will provide important information to measure forest succession changes through time.

The Forest Productivity Program

A stratified random sampling design was developed for volume sampling in FMU 11 and FMU 12, which randomly selected 220 stands from each FMU. 804 volume sampling plots were established in 268 of the selected stands within FMUs 11 and 12. The remaining 172 stands will be sampled in the 2009 field season.

The stem analysis database was reviewed and gaps were identified for future information acquisition. Additional trees were sampled and incorporated the provincial database.

The Permanent Sample Plot (PSP) program re-measured 46 existing plots and established 3 new plots. Compilation of historical PSP data continued to provide a more user friendly database. The data will support the development of growth and yield models for the province.

Nine National Forestry Inventory (NFI) ground plots were re-measured. This information will be used to supplement the provincial PSP program and will be used for provincial and national reporting requirements.

Discussions continued with Manitoba forest industry to establish a co-operative PSP program.

Discussions occurred regarding the use of new provincial utilization standards in wood supply determination. Discussions will continue to identify the applicability of these standards.

An aerial survey was implemented in the Saskatchewan River forest section to evaluate post-fire regeneration. The information collected was used to develop post-fire successional pathways which were used to update the inventory for the upcoming wood supply determination.

The growth and yield program has continued to participate in meetings with the Manitoba Silviculture Technical Committee to provide technical support regarding the application of silviculture data in the wood supply determination process.

The Resource Analysis Program

Supplementary wood supply analyses were carried out for portions of the Lake Winnipeg East Forest Section to reflect the removal of forest management activities (harvesting) from Provincial Parks (Nopiming and Whiteshell). Wood supply figures for the Pineland Forest Section were also updated to reflect recent natural disturbances events (fire and wind throw), land ownership changes and new Protected Areas Initiative land selections. Addendums to existing wood supply reports will be completed in 2009-10.

A number of wood supply scenarios and sensitivity analyses were conducted for portions of the Mountain Forest Section.

Land base net down information was collected and compiled into the Saskatchewan River Forest Section forest inventory database to support future wood supply analysis.

Numerous spatial analyses (GIS) were conducted to evaluate forest resources impacted by proposed developments and potential land base withdrawals.

Forest Health and Renewal

The Forest Health and Renewal Section protects forests from damage by insects, disease and other factors, assists wildfire management and ensures all harvested Crown forest lands are renewed to maintain ecosystem integrity and biodiversity. The public and industry receive information and assistance on forest health and renewal issues.

Surveys, efficacy tests and research on significant insects and diseases are conducted by the Section. Significant pests and diseases monitored included spruce budworm, Dutch elm disease, jack pine budworm, elm bark beetles, dwarf mistletoe, western gall rust, armillaria root rot, spruce beetle, eastern larch beetle and pine root collar weevil. Forest health data is collected in regeneration, free-to-grow and pre-harvest surveys to develop management prescriptions and track substantially infected stands.

The Dutch elm disease (DED) management program seeks to reduce the impact of DED on urban elm populations by limiting the annual elm tree mortality to two per cent or less. The program manages DED in 37 communities in Manitoba and conducts surveys in a large buffer zone area surrounding the city of Winnipeg. The program is managed through annual cost share agreements between the province and participating communities. Under these agreements, the community and the province are each responsible for the implementation of a specific set of DED control measures. Major participating urban centres are Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Morden, Winkler, Dauphin, Steinbach, Selkirk and Swan River.

The Forest Renewal Program (delivered by Regional Operations) is administered and co-ordinated by this Section. The Section maintains the pool of site-preparation equipment and co-ordinates its use with Regional Operations. Renewal technology transfer to region staff is provided through field trials and promoting innovation. Regional renewal programs are also supported through administration and co-ordination of silviculture contracts and by assisting in the planning and delivery of vegetation management projects. The Manitoba Silviculture Technical Committee (MbSTC), comprised of government and industry foresters and technicians, encourages the exchange ideas and solutions and provides technology transfer.

The objectives of the Tree Improvement Program are to provide a genetically improved seed source for reforestation and to ensure the conservation of the forest genetic resource. The program consists of eight government/industry co-operatives, with Tolko Manitoba, Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company and Tembec. In addition, there are six separate provincial programs. Tree Improvement staff manage and provide technical direction for all programs. All work involved in the maintenance and assessment of family tests and the management of seed orchards is completed by tree improvement staff, and a portion of the costs are billed to the forest companies through the Tree Improvement Trust Account.

Key Results Achieved

2008/09 Annual Report Key Results Achieved

A survey was carried out in Porcupine Provincial Forest to develop a tree mortality profile for Armillaria root disease and to determine the pathological rotation age for upland black spruce. Analysis of results from a similar survey in Duck Mountain Provincial Forest in 2007 indicate that volume losses due to root disease significantly reduces the period of operability for this forest type.

Fire Program was assisted by identifying values at risk, reviewing Forest Management Licensees' annual fire control plans, digitizing all fires into Forestry Branch's Geographic Information System and participating in the Canadian Forest Service's National Fire Database mapping program.

The Spruce Budworm Program
Spruce budworm continued to infest areas of Manitoba in 2008. Emergency funding was provided for the aerial application of the biosynthetic insecticide, Mimic (tebufenozide), on 14,212 hectares in the Northwest Region, of which 11,069 ha received a single application of 70 grams a.i. of Mimic® per ha and 3,143 ha received a double application. The aerial application resulted in good budworm population suppression and foliage protection.

The Dutch Elm Disease Program
There were 7095 elms marked for removal in 37 cost-share communities and in the buffer zones around Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Dauphin and Virden in 2008. High levels of DED persist along rivers, especially the Red, Assiniboine, Boyne (near Carman) and Souris Rivers. As of March 31, 2009, 6,266 elms were removed. The program expects to complete removals by the end of spring.

In September of 2008, DED operations implemented a basal pesticide application program in the Winnipeg buffer zone within the RM Ritchot along the Seine River. A total of 5,638 elm trees were treated on mostly private properties. The treatments were conducted in co-ordination with the City of Winnipeg, which treated adjacent highly infected DED areas within the city boundaries. It is expected that regular basal treatments of these areas will, over time, result in reducing the spread of Dutch elm disease from these buffer zone areas into the City of Winnipeg.

The Rapid Removal DED Research Project by the Department of Entomology from University of Manitoba completed its third field season in 2008. The objectives of this project are to investigate the potential benefits of early removal of diseased elms to DED management and to find an environmentally friendlier alternative for the pesticide currently used to control native elm bark beetles. This project is collaboration between the City of Winnipeg, Trees Winnipeg (Coalition to Save the Elms), Manitoba Conservation and the University of Manitoba as project lead.

Drafting of the Regulations including extensive public consultation for the new *Forest Health Protection Act* continued in 2008. This act received royal assent in 2007 and will be proclaimed once the regulations have been completed. The regulations include general provisions on the movement and treatment of host tree material to prevent spread of invasive pests and Dutch elm disease and a new revised regulation for the licensing of Manitoba tree care workers. The purpose of this new legislation is to protect Manitoba's urban, rural and commercial forests from invasive pests by giving the province the ability to prevent the importation of invasive forest pests into Manitoba and to control or eradicate infestations.

For invasive forest pests, the Forest Health and Renewal Section assisted the federal Canadian Food Inspection Agency in monitoring for gypsy moth and also increased the number of provincial trapping locations to determine the distribution of a recently found invasive forest pest, the banded elm bark beetle.

For invasive forest pest prevention, Forest Health and Renewal monitored the firewood collecting bins along the Trans Canada highway at the Saskatchewan and Ontario borders. These bins, with informative highway signs, warn the public that by transporting firewood they may be spreading invasive alien forest pests. Part of this prevention initiative involved surveying campers in provincial and private campgrounds to determine who brought their own firewood and from where.

As part of the National Forest Pest Strategy, Forest Health and Renewal is conducting an ash tree inventory in urban, agricultural, river bottom and boreal forests. The purpose is to determine the spatial distribution, mensuration and value of the ash tree resource for contribution to a Pest Risk Analysis that can be utilized nationally and quantify the potential impact of Emerald Ash Borer in the Prairie Provinces

The Forest Renewal Program

The Manitoba Silviculture Technical Committee (MbSTC), comprised of government and industry foresters and technicians, continued its work of exchanging ideas and solutions and providing technology transfer. The MbSTC is presently investigating hardwood renewal standards and is working to develop and formalize a procedure to identify blocks that would be exempt from meeting regeneration and or free-to-grow standards. Unique generation and Free to Grow (FTG) surveys are being developed for specifically, understory protection regeneration treatments.

The Forest Health and Renewal Section tested Forestry Branch, contract and company surveyors, and Regeneration Surveyor Licenses were issued to qualified individuals. A successful re-certification program was continued for surveyors who were licensed the preceding year. An audit of surveys and check surveys done by Tembec and the Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company was completed. The Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company and Tembec were issued a Certificate of Reforestation for successful forest renewal.

Regeneration surveys to determine the success of forest renewal were performed on 4,027.6 hectares. The Forestry Branch surveyed 2,900.5 hectares, while licensed regeneration surveyors from the Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company surveyed 202.3 hectares and Tembec surveyed 924.8 hectares. The Branch performed FTG surveys on softwood-dominated forest stands to determine if they are developing appropriately (i.e. surpassing competing tree species in height within 14-20 years of age). Two techniques were used, intensive and extensive. The intensive survey technique was used on 647.8 hectares and the extensive technique was used on 984.4 hectares for a total of 1,632.2 hectares.

The Forestry Branch and industry carried out forest renewal treatments on 9,881 hectares, including re-treatments. Most of the area was planted with approximately 14.2 million trees that were delivered through regular tendered contracts and some non-tendered negotiated contracts with First Nation companies. Scarification was used to promote natural regeneration on 596 hectares.

Of the estimated 11,146 hectares of softwoods harvested in 2007/08, 89 per cent (10,030 ha) were treated for reforestation in 2008/09. The rest was left to regenerate naturally or will be planted or otherwise treated in the future. The majority of hardwood areas harvested were left to regenerate naturally because poplar regenerates readily from root suckering. About 27 hectares of harvested area that had not restocked sufficiently were re-treated by planting.

The Tree Improvement Program

There are currently 14 seed orchards (62.9 hectares - over 175,000 trees) and 27 family tests (83.3 hectares – over 191,000 trees) across the province. Improved jack pine seed is available for the Southeast, Interlake and Saskatchewan River breeding zones. Improved white spruce seed is available for the Mountain and Saskatchewan River breeding zones. Improved black spruce seed is available for the Lake Winnipeg East, Saskatchewan River, Nelson River, Interlake and Southeast breeding zones. Genetically improved jack pine and black spruce will be available from other breeding zones in the future.

Large cone crops were collected at the Birds Hill white spruce orchard (Mountain zone) and the Brightstone black spruce orchard (Lake Winnipeg East zone), which will provide improved seed for reforestation for several years in these zones. Management continued on seed orchards and family tests maintained as required.

Manitoba is co-operating with Manitoba Forestry Association with the delivery of the Trees for Tomorrow program, the planting of five million trees over five years on private, municipal; and First Nations land. Manitoba also continues in cooperation with the Canadian Forest Service bio energy project with the establishment and harvesting of short-rotation willow and hybrid poplar plantations.

Table FO.1

Forest Renewal Activities

	Manitoba Conservation	Tembec	Tolko Manitoba	MFSRC	Total
Area Treated (hectares)	2,166	891	5,533	1,440	9,854
Area Retreated (hectares)	10	17	0	0	27
Total Treated Areas	2,176	908	5,533	1,440	9,881
Total Trees Planted (1000s)	4,672	1,222	6,452	1,901	14,247
Total Area Site Prepared for Renewal Treatment (hectares)	1,060	217	1,062	172	5,022
Total Area Tended (hectares)	5	90	11	0	106
General Cone Collections Seed Orchard Co-op Collections	4.6	2.7	0	5.7	13.0hl

Forest Management and Development

The Forest Management and Development Section provides direction in five areas to regional forestry staff and forestry companies in Manitoba with the vision of sustainably managing Manitoba's forest resource in the best interest of the forest and the people of Manitoba.

Timber Administration

- administer timber management effectively and efficiently
- provide cutting authority, monitor harvest volumes and collect timber sale revenue
- establish, communicate and collect timber dues along with other fees and charges

Forest Management Planning and Forest Practices

- ensure forest management planning is comprehensive and appropriate
- develop appropriate guidelines for forest management planning
- promote environmentally sustainable and economical forestry practices
- monitor forestry operations with regional Conservation counterparts
- maintain existing and develop new Forest Management Licence Agreements

Wood Measurement

- ensure Manitoba scaling methods are consistent with national standards
- ensure that all Crown timber harvested in Manitoba is accurately measured and tracked
- provide training, licensing and monitoring of industry wood measurement programs
- track the movement of Crown timber from forests to mill destinations

Legislation and Policy

- ensure that forestry activities are properly authorized
- maintain *The Forest Act*, Regulations and forestry policies

Key Results Achieved

Timber Administration

The US housing crisis and reduced global demand for forest products continued to affect Manitoba Timber Operators in 2008/09. This weakened commodity prices and therefore less timber was harvested within Manitoba and throughout Canada.

In 2008/09, this section issued, administered, tracked and monitored:

- 177 Timber Sales
- 2,244 Timber Permits
- 214 Operating & General Permits
- 48,500 Load Slips
- 21 Sawmill Licences
- 33 Timber Dealers Licences

In total, 1,911,841 m3 of Crown timber was harvested and/or delivered in Manitoba in 2008/09.

Total revenue received from timber dues, forest renewal charges, forest protection charges and other fees/charges was $4,938,844.

A new monthly timber pricing system was implemented on April 1, 2008. The system proved to respond quickly to forest product commodities with Timber Dues rising and falling with the market. Meetings were held with Manitoba's forest industry to review the new system and recommend refinements. Minor refinements were approved for 2009/10.

A new timber administration system was implemented on April 1st, 2008. In 2008/09 the number of declarations of timber harvested (Timber Returns) submitted by timber operators and processed by Conservation staff was reduced by 30%. Other changes improved Manitoba's ability to track crown timber.

In November 2008, Manitoba announced the removal of commercial logging within all Provincial Parks except Duck Mountain by April 1, 2009. The department worked closely with affected cutting right holders to find suitable alternative volumes and locations outside of Provincial Parks to ensure existing timber operations could continue with minimal disruption.

Forest Management Planning and Forest Practices

Tembec, Louisiana Pacific, Tolko and the Mountain Quota Holders Association all submitted annual operating plans for 2008/09, which were approved by Manitoba Conservation. Annual meetings were held with each licensee and Annual Reports were reviewed.

The Forest Practices Committee, comprised of representatives from other branches and departments of the Government of Manitoba and forest industry, continued to develop guidelines for forestry practices. Conservation published the "Pre-Harvest Survey Guidelines" which can be found on the internet at http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/forestry/forest-practices/practices/fpp-guideline-pdfs.html.

The committee continues to work on Forest Management Guidelines for Terrestrial Buffers, the Forest Health Guidebook, the Annual Report Submission Guidebook, the Protection of Softwood Understory Guidebook and the Landscape Design Guidebook.

Wood Measurement

A Manitoba issued Scaling Licence is required for the measurement of crown timber harvested in Manitoba. A five-day Scalers Licence Training Course was held in Pine Falls in September, 2008. Ten candidates completed the course.

Licensed Scalers are also required to complete a mandatory Licence Refresher Course every five years. Two three-day refresher courses were held; one in Swan river in June 2008 with 16 candidates completing the course and one in Pine Falls in September 2008 with 10 candidates completing the course.

To support the new timber administration system, Manitoba Conservation continued the measurement program initiated in 2007 to determine acceptable deductions for cull, defect and undersize material for timber received at Manitoba mills or exported out of province.

Under the 2006 Canada – United States Softwood Lumber Agreement, Manitoba Forestry Branch, participates in discussions with the Federal government and other provinces, and continues to provide quarterly notifications to Canada and the U.S as required under the Agreement.

Sustainable Forestry Unit

The Sustainable Forestry Unit (SFU) promotes economic development through the forest industry. During the reporting year the SFU's role in Crown consultation continued to expand as the SFU provided support and advice to regional staff. At the strategic level, the SFU reports directly to a four-person management committee comprised of the Secretary to the Community and Economic Development Committee of Cabinet, the Deputy Minister of Conservation, the Deputy Minister of Competitiveness, Training and Trade and the Deputy Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. This reporting structure promotes a sustainable development approach to Manitoba's forests, with a priority focus on economic diversification, Aboriginal participation and co-ordination between departments.

The Sustainable Forestry Unit (SFU) works closely with the other sections within the Forestry Branch to ensure co-ordination on issues, such as wood supply, fibre quality, forest management, wood tenure, etc. The Unit is working to enhance forestry opportunities within the context of sustainable fibre usage and environmentally responsible forest management practices.

As a cross-departmental unit, the SFU is charged with developing a sustainable and diversified strategy for Manitoba's forests by focusing on the following areas:

1. encouraging Aboriginal forestry developments, including (a) resource co-management, (b) business ownership and (c) economic development (training, employment, etc.)
2. increasing value-added processing in the forest sector (including timber and non-timber forest products)
3. fostering interaction between primary and secondary industry

Key Results Achieved

Forintek Canada Corp., a division of FPInnovations, is a not-for-profit wood products research organization. Forintek continues to provide industry expertise through workshops, plant visits and technical inquiries. This program is funded until September 2009 through a federal-provincial agreement. Forintek continues to have two secondary forest products industry advisors in Winnipeg and a primary industry advisor located in The Pas. The continued focus of the program is to assist in industry diversification and competitiveness.

The "Forest Innovation Liaison Officer" (FILO) position continued in 2008/09 in Manitoba by FERIC, a division of FPInnovations. The current agreement provides funding until 2009/10 to support the position and associated activities. FERIC specializes in areas of research related to the harvesting of wood, transportation and forest road construction, and silviculture.

FERIC continues a multi-year "Manitoba Forest Industry Transportation Study" involving Central Tire Inflation technology to be completed in 2010. Working in partnership with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation, this study could lead to increased efficiencies for the trucking industry.

In 2008/09, Manitoba Conservation worked with the First Nations Forestry Limited Partnership (FNFLP) and Ainsworth Lumber Company to wind down activities relating to a proposed hardwood products development in southern Manitoba. Ainsworth was forced to withdraw from the hardwood development initiative due to impacts of the global recession.

The SFU assisted the Northwest and Northeast regions in their Crown consultation process for the Tolko Annual Operating Plan (AOP). SFU continued Crown consultation activities with regard to the LP long term Forest Management Plan (FMP).

In 2008/09 to achieve the Provincial government goal of phasing out commercial logging from Provincial parks while maintaining a viable forest sector, the SFU and other Forestry staff worked with industry to ensure the province's commitments to the forest industry could be met while transitioning commercial timber allocations out of four provincial parks.

The SFU continued to work with communities in various parts of the province that were interested in developing forestry-based businesses, such as saw mills or log home building establishments. Much of the work focused on providing business contacts and advice.

In 2008/09, the SFU published a brochure titled *Manitoba Forestry – Growing Opportunities for a Sustainable, Inclusive Forest Industry*.

Forest Regeneration Stock

All planting stock purchased by the province, Tolko or the Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company is grown at Pineland Forest Nursery. This supplier is also used for seed collection, extraction, storage, transportation of seedlings to the field and a stock identification system. The reforestation of areas affected by recent windstorms and forest fires will result in increased stock requirements in the near future. The potential increase in stock requirements may be partly offset by a recent reduction in harvesting and therefore less renewal due to the current forest industry downturn.

Key Results Achieved

Manitoba Conservation purchased 4.63 million seedlings for planting in 2008/09, and 4.19 million seedlings were grown for planting in 2009/10. Another 1.22 million seedlings were purchased for planting by Tembec in 2008/09, and 800,000 thousand seedlings were grown for planting in 2009/10.

Table FO.2

12.4(d) Forestry

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Estimate 2008/09		Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,956	56.56	4,545	411	
Other Expenditures	9,653		5,861	3,792	1.
Grant Assistance	23		23	0	
Forest Regeneration Stock	911		1,001	(90)	
Less: Recoverable from Urban and Rural Initiatives	(1,102)		(1,325)	222	
Total 12.4(d)	**14,441**	**56.56**	**10,106**	**4,335**	

1. Over expenditure in Other Expenditures is mainly due to costs associated with phasing out logging in Provincial Parks.

Habitat Enhancement Fund

The Fund provided a grant to Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation in support of the co-operative Critical Wildlife Habitat Program. The grant funds stewardship initiatives targeted at habitat conservation activities, including mixed-grass prairie inventories, mixed-grass prairie grazing management, other land-management activities on program lands, (including native-prairie management), and extension initiatives. It is used to provide some of the provincial match required for Federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk allocations for Manitoba projects.

Table HE.1

12.4(e) Habitat Enhancement Fund

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	60	0.00	50	10	
Total 12.4(e)	**60**	**0.00**	**50**	**10**	

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

The branch manages wildlife resources to conserve biological diversity, including species and ecosystems within the context of the principles of sustainable development. The branch protects and enhances habitat on Crown and private lands and monitors the effects of industrial emissions and land use on ecosystems. Resources are allocated to maximize long-term social, economic and environmental benefits. The branch co-operates with a wide range of clients and groups to promote conservation and to realize optimum benefits from interaction with wildlife. The branch represents wildlife interests in departmental, provincial, national, and international initiatives for biodiversity, species at risk, migratory wildlife, game and fur species, problem wildlife, protected spaces, conservation, sustainable development, and federal-provincial harmonization. The branch ensures that wildlife programs reflect the cultural, subsistence, social, and economic values of Manitobans, consistent with policy, procedure and legislation.

Key activities include:

Administration

Grants were made to the:

- Churchill Northern Studies Centre (local research on wildlife and resource management)
- Manitoba Trappers Association (trapper education and involvement in fur management)
- Fur Institute of Canada (humane trap development and public information)
- Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (North American Waterfowl Management Plan and Critical Wildlife Habitat Program)
- Wildlife Habitat Canada (annual contribution toward the operation of the Canadian Wildlife Directors' Committee)
- Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

The branch participates in various local, national, and international wildlife initiatives: Canadian Wildlife Directors' Committee, Arctic Goose Joint Venture, Canadian Polar Bear Administrative Committee, Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre, Mississippi Flyway Council, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, Wildlife Habitat Canada and Prairie Habitat Joint Venture, and a variety of national committees on species at risk, such as the Committee On the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch Web Site

The branch web site (www.manitoba.ca/conservation/wildlife) continues to provide Manitobans with wildlife and habitat-related information and resources. Through the web, the branch is able to provide an overview of the mandate of the branch, information about branch programs, volunteer opportunities, contact information, and information on current issues. The web site continues to be an important tool in providing information to the public, welcoming over 165,000 visitors in 2008.

The hunting guide and trapping guide are published to the web each year through the branch web site. The online guides provide all the information that the printed guides do, with the additional advantage of providing updates or amendments to the printed guide throughout the year. The hunting guide received over 62,000 visitors in 2008 and the trapping guide received over 3,500 visitors. The Conservation Data Centre (CDC) also publishes under the umbrella of the branch web site and receives approximately 10,000 visitors a year.

People wishing to visit the Narcisse snake dens during peak emergence (spring) and return periods (fall) continue to use the web site as a resource. Status reports on snake numbers and den activity are updated every few days during the peak periods, giving prospective visitors an idea of what they will see and when is the best time to plan a trip to the dens.

The Ecosystem Monitoring Section continues to provide information regarding sustainability and diversity of Manitoba's terrestrial ecosystems, and how they are maintained through environmental monitoring. Current and previous ecosystem monitoring publications are continuously being added to the site as they become available in digital format.

General Extension

During 2008/09, displays at Manitoba Grazing School, Manitoba Conservation Districts Annual Meeting and the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair were supported by Manitoba Conservation staff.

Staff also attended Manitoba the Cattle Producers Association Annual General Meeting.

Staff continued to contribute to the Manitoba Envirothon by preparing test questions and assisting with the field day and oral competition components. Envirothon is an annual Olympic-style academic and environmental program for high school students (Grades 9-12). The students are tested in four discipline areas (aquatics, forestry, soils and wildlife) and an annual theme (last year's was: Recreational Impacts on Natural Resources). The event was held at the Wilderness Edge in Pinawa and 36 Manitoba school teams participated. Baker School from Baker Colony won the event and, in July 2008, represented Manitoba at the International Canon Envirothon in Arizona.

National Wildlife Week

National Wildlife Week was celebrated during April 6 to 11, 2008. This event was co-ordinated with the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF). The theme selected for 2008 was "Pollinator's – from flowers to food to our future."

Legislation

Approximately 17 amending regulations were registered to adjust nine ministerial regulations and two order-in-council regulations under *The Wildlife Act*. The amendments were required to facilitate regular annual updates to hunting and trapping season opening and closing dates. However, these amendments also included highlighted changes such as the following:

- Allowing Sunday hunting throughout the province of Manitoba;
- Designating Swift Fox, Musk Ox and the Grizzly Bear as wild animals under *The Wildlife Act*; and
- Allowing Canadian residents to become Manitoba Hunting Guides (no longer restricting it to Manitoba residency) to be in compliance with Canada's *Agreement on Internal Trade*.

The two Order-in-Council regulation amendments under *The Wildlife Act* that were registered are:

- A slight increase to fees in wildlife licensing and permits; and
- Update boundary changes to the Saskeram WMA.

Wildlife Permits

The Branch administers permits and licences required under *The Wildlife Act* and *The Endangered Species Act*. Permits issued are various including (but not limited to) species at risk permits, scientific research permits and wildlife management area permits.

The guide licensing program is now an ongoing component of branch administration and has become a large portion of the permit clerk's administrative duties.

Permit numbers are listed in Table WI.1

Table WI.1

Wildlife Permits Issued, 2008

Provincial Permits	
Amphibian and Reptiles	1
Dead Wild Animal Possession Permit (educational)	5
Dead Wild Animal Possession Permit (personal)	113
Applications Denied (dead wild animal)	3
Disabled Hunter Permit (permanent)	51
Disabled Hunter Permit (discharge firearm)	7
Disabled Hunter Permit (revoked)	0
Applications Denied (disabled hunter)	18
Dog Trainer's Licence (non-resident)	2
Dog Training Club Licence	2
Exotic Animal Import Permit	0
Field Trial Permit	0
Live Exotic Animal Possession Permit	0
Live Wild Animal Possession Permit	12
Power Boat in Marsh Permit	1
Serve Meat of Wild Animal Permit	2
Species At Risk Permit	2
Use Vehicle Off Designated Route Permit	0
Wild Animal Capture Permit	4
Wild Animal Export Permit	1,308
Wild Animal Import Permit	18
Wild Animal Kill Permit	3
Wild Animal Part Dealer Permit	33
Wildlife Farm Licence	2
Wildlife Management Area Use Permit	25
Wildlife Scientific Permit	26
Game Bird Farm Licence	8
Game Bird Shooting Preserve Licence	0
Taxidermist Licence	51
Tanner's Licence	5
Total (Provincial Permits):	**1,681**
Guide Licences	1,373
Hunter Education Certificates	771
Hunter Education Certificates (denied)	25

Game, Fur and Problem Wildlife Management

Hunting is an important part of Manitoba's rich natural heritage. Manitoba Conservation is committed to: providing hunting opportunities for all Manitobans; ensuring that hunting has a positive future in the province; and exploring new and expanded hunting opportunities for Manitoba hunters and the non-resident hunting industry.

Conservation is the first priority of wildlife management and the second priority is to protect or ensure Aboriginal rights of harvest to wildlife for food. However, when additional hunting opportunities are sustainable, and stakeholder consultation has occurred, seasons may be introduced as part of the department's annual process of reviewing hunting regulations.

The following changes to the hunting program were introduced in 2008/09.

- Sunday hunting for big game hunting was expanded to include Game Hunting Ares (GHAs) 13A,18A, 18B, 18C, 19, and 19B;
- In GHAs 23 and 23A around Riding Mountain National Park, the bag limit for all elk seasons was returned to any elk or moose. Due to these changes the conservation moose season in GHAs 23 and 23A was discontinued;
- GHA 13 was added to the area included in the Porcupine Mountain area winter elk season. The area now includes GHA 13, 13A, and part of GHA 14 (excluding the Swan-Porcupine Provincial Forest);
- The boundary between GHA 31 and 31A was realigned along PTH 34. Due to this boundary change GHA 31 is excluded from all big game draw seasons;
- The non-draw archery moose season bag limit in GHA 12, 14, 14A and 21A was changed to one bull or calf moose;
- The gray wolf season in zone C was extended to March 31;
- Under the authority of a big game licence hunters are now able to take one coyote; and
- A crossbow permit was created to allow hunters with a permanent upper body disability to use a crossbow or a mechanical device to hold a bow at full draw during all the archery seasons.

Key activities include:

Waterfowl Management

Manitoba Conservation continues to be actively involved in the continental management of waterfowl, through direct delivery of programs, and formation of partnerships with non-government wildlife organizations, municipalities, conservation groups, provincial and federal government departments, and interested individuals. Manitoba Conservation is influential in waterfowl management decisions at both regional (Prairie Canada) and international scales. The Provinces' interests are represented annually at Mississippi Flyway Technical Section meetings and at the Prairie Canada Technical Committee meeting. Representation at both levels is important because of the effect regulation change has on populations of both hunters and waterfowl.

Waterfowl populations in Manitoba continue to be extremely healthy, providing extensive opportunity for viewing and hunting. Of particular note are populations of Giant Canada geese, which continue to increase annually in Manitoba, through both local production and by an influx of geese from southern jurisdictions which migrate to Manitoba in early summer to molt their flight feathers. Manitoba Conservation staff are reviewing options to increase harvest of Giant Canada geese, especially those frequenting urban areas where conflicts with people are common.

Manitoba Conservation staff continue to manage Nester One camp near Churchill, and coordinate monitoring of the Eastern Prairie Population (EPP) of Canada geese, which nest in the lowlands of Hudson Bay. Annual information about population composition and breeding effort are collected in June, and marking of adults and young occurs in August. Information generated by this work is vital to the sustainable harvest of the population in Manitoba, and throughout the Mississippi Flyway. The work is primarily funded by Manitoba Conservation (through financial support and in-kind contributions), states of the Mississippi Flyway, and by the Canadian Wildlife Service. Parks Canada provides considerable contributions of staff time and logistical support. A successful application ($32,000) to the Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund (through Indian and Northern Affairs Canada) will result in significant camp improvements in the coming years (2009 and 2010). Past and planned infrastructure improvements have earned the camp a reputation as an ecologically sensitive facility, resulting in its use as a model for development of other remote camps.

Manitoba Conservation and the Canadian Wildlife Service continue to work closely on a variety of projects and general duties, including the May Breeding Waterfowl and Habitat Survey, scientific permitting, urban goose issues, and hunting regulations.

Manitoba Conservation staff chair the Manitoba Mentored Hunt Partnership. Membership in the partnership consists of the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, and Ducks Unlimited Canada. The partnership and its volunteers were extremely active this year, running numerous seminars, workshops, and appreciation days for mentors and beginner hunters. In 2008, 16 mentored waterfowl hunts took place across the province (in addition to several mentored deer hunts) and 284 people were introduced to waterfowl hunting. The partnership established a Terms of Reference in 2008, and is in the process of establishing a strategic plan, including goals, objectives, and metrics to measure success.

Manitoba Conservation staff chair the Manitoba Game Bird Partnership, which consists of the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, and Manitoba Lodges and Outfitter Association. The partnership works to achieve balance between resident and non-resident opportunity by developing suggestions for regulation change or amendment. General satisfaction of current regulations and abundant opportunity by resident hunters and outfitters is a testament to the success of this partnership.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and other protected and managed habitats remain as important as ever to waterfowl, for their productive value and as refuge during molt and migration. Their role in providing accessible areas for the public to view and hunt waterfowl contributes to the continued understanding, appreciation and ultimately conservation of this resource by the public.

Non-migratory Game Bird Management

Preservation of grassland habitat and advancement of sustainable agriculture practices (e.g., winter cereals, zero-tillage, delayed haying) continue to be important to the long-term stability of upland game bird populations in Manitoba, especially for Sharp-tailed Grouse and Gray Partridge. Populations of all upland game species are greatly influenced by inclement weather events during nesting and brood rearing periods. Cool, wet weather in spring and early summer, generally results in poor production. In addition to the affect of weather on reproduction, populations of Ruffed and Spruce Grouse and Willow Ptarmigan follow relatively cyclic fluctuations in abundance, which are probably related to large scale changes in the food web. Relatively low numbers of upland game hunters in Manitoba, and the strong compensatory relationship between hunting and upland game populations reduces the need for direct, intensive harvest management of upland game birds in Manitoba. Rather, the department strives to support efforts of government (Manitoba Conservation; habitat section, Agriculture Canada; Agri-Environment Services Branch) and non-government agencies (e.g., Sharptails Plus, Nature Conservancy Canada, Ducks Unlimited) in efforts to conserve and regenerate important habitat, namely grasslands. Recent developments in these efforts are participation by the department in developing a landscape plan for Ellis-Archie Community Pasture. The plan objectives are to manage the landscape for both cattle and wildlife, through development of sustainable grazing practises and habitat alteration. The plan is intended to guide development of plans for other Community Pastures in Manitoba.

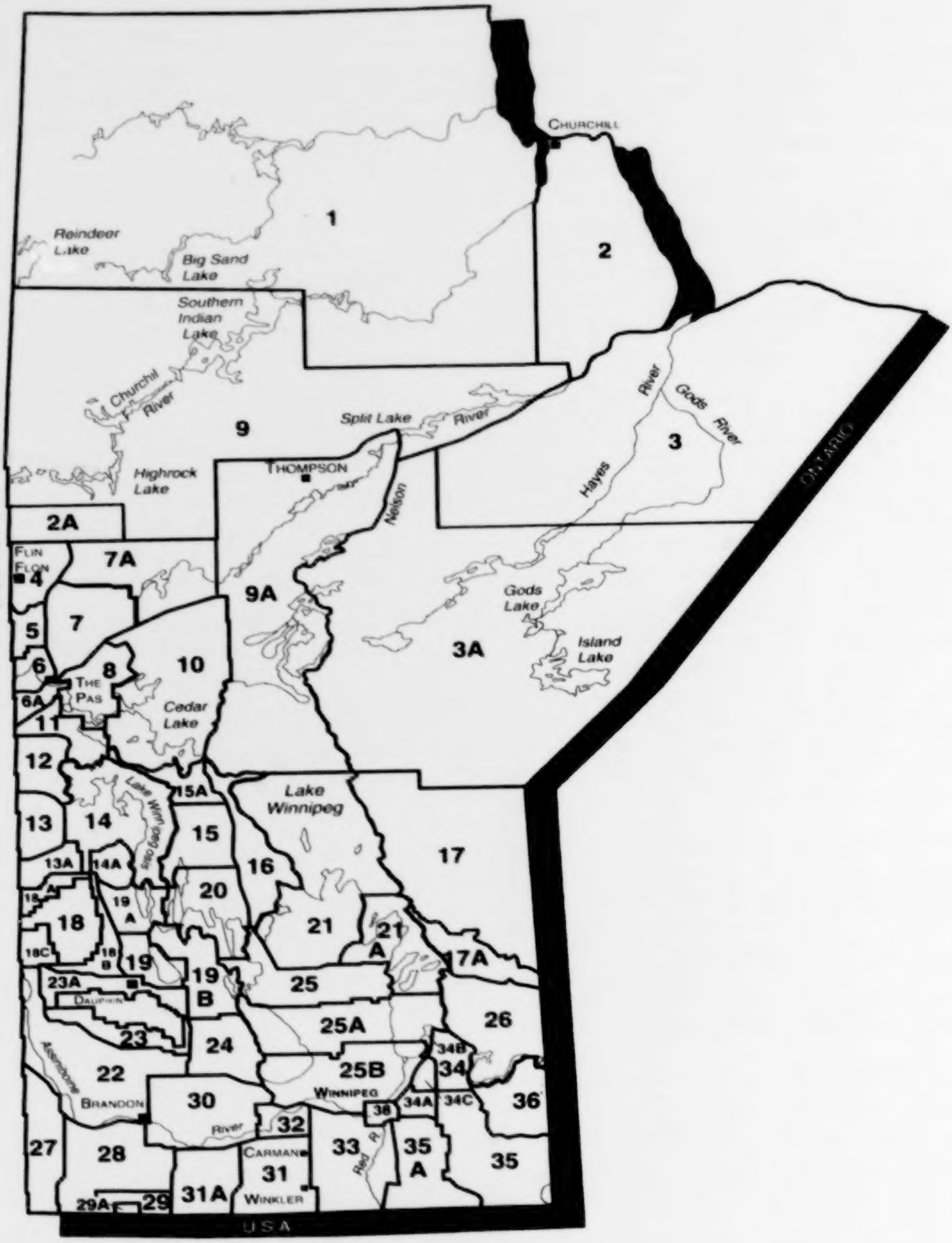
Although no structured surveys are conducted for upland game birds in Manitoba, anecdotal evidence suggests the distribution of grouse remains widespread across the province, and at levels that provide hunting and viewing opportunity. It is important to note that maintenance of large tracts of habitat (provincial WMAs, Community Pastures, NCC land, DU land) are extremely beneficial to upland populations.

Wild turkey populations continue to prosper in southern Manitoba, as has interest in turkeys and turkey hunting, as judged by the significant increases in license sales in 2008. The department continues to work closely with Wild Gobblers Unlimited (WGU) and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) to remove and relocate problem turkeys from urban areas, rural communities, and farms where densities are excessive. Two releases were conducted in April 2008, consisting of birds trapped near Brandon, inside Winnipeg (St. Norbert, Wildwood Park), and in Vita. Expansion of the population into new areas of the province has been accomplished through transplanting of problem birds, often by volunteers. Several winter feeding sites were again used to intercept problem turkeys and prevent them from feeding in silage pits and in livestock operations. Cattle producers throughout the province continue to act as excellent stewards for Wild turkeys, and are extremely tolerant of the birds. Wild Gobblers Unlimited and the department again worked with producers over the winter to mitigate damage through barriers and feeding, and reduce densities through relocation. Producers and other volunteers have been particularly important in acting as sentries for disease, and in providing information about distribution and abundance of turkeys. Increased interest in turkeys has motivated development of a mark-recapture program to monitor harvest and survival rates. An online harvest survey, together with harvest information obtained through recoveries of banded birds, will permit estimation of abundance on a Game Hunting Area (GHA) basis. WGU and NWTF are supportive of the proposed program, and have agreed to commit some funds to the program.

Figure 6

Game Hunting Areas

Sections represent Area boundaries of Province Hunting Areas.


CHURCHILL
1
2
Reindeer Lake
Big Sand Lake
Southern Indian Lake
Churchill River
9
Split Lake
River
Gods River
Hayes River
3
THOMPSON
Nelson
Highrock Lake
SASKATCHEWAN
ONTARIO
2A
FLIN FLON
4
7A
9A
Gods Lake
Island Lake
3A
5
7
10
6
8
THE PAS
6A
Cedar Lake
11
12
15A
Lake Winnipeg
Lake Winnipegosis
13
14
15
16
17
13A
14A
20
18A
19A
18
21
21A
18C
18B
19
17A
23A
DAUPHIN
19B
25
25A
26
23
24
34B
34
22
25B
Assiniboine
WINNIPEG
36
BRANDON
30
38
34A
34C
River
32
27
28
33
Red R.
35A
35
CARMAN
31
29A
29
31A
WINKLER
USA

White-tailed Deer

- Province-wide, the white-tailed deer population has declined. However, in some areas deer numbers remain high, generally in areas of high quality deer habitat where supplemental feeding occurs and hunting is not allowed. Normal-to-above-average snowfall and below normal temperatures within the white-tailed deer range occurred this past winter, which resulted in average deer winter mortality. The impact of inclement spring weather is of concern, with below normal temperatures in April and May along with the significant snow fall in parts of the province may result in a significant loss of deer. Deer densities were moderate in much of the southern half of the province. The Second Deer was still offered in most game hunting with the Third Deer - Resident Only licence being offered in select in Deer Hunting Zones E and F.

Table WI.2
Deer Hunting Licences Sold

Licence Type	2008/09	2007/08
Resident rifle season	29,579	29,255
Resident bow hunting	3,432	3,320
Resident muzzleloader	8,974	9,248
Resident shotgun/muzzleloader	595	538
Resident second deer	9,625	9,400
Resident third deer	222	205
Non-resident/Canadian deer	800	685
Non-resident/non-Canadian deer	1,095	1,302

** as of May 31, 2009*

Black Bear

- The black bear population in Manitoba is considered to be stable to growing at between 25,000 and 35,000 animals. Current harvest levels (six to eight per cent of the total population) are sustainable (3,500 hunters, 1,950 bears). Total licence sales have increased approximately eight per cent since 2000. In 2007, resident and foreign-resident participation remained constant when compared to the running 3-year average, about 1,400 and 2,100 hunters, respectively. Foreign-resident participation is managed by quota allocations to outfitters and is reviewed every three years, the latest occurring in 2007 for 2008 through to 2010. Quality experiences, such as a 75 per cent success rate and a reputation for big bears with a range of colours, are attractive to non-resident hunters.

- Direct measurement of populations is difficult. Consequently, indirect methods are used to detect changes in densities, such as field observations by staff, hunters and outfitters; hunter success rates; and sex ratio and age distribution of the harvest. A computer model, using hunter harvest data and reproductive data from biological samples submitted by hunters and outfitters, is used to evaluate harvest levels to ensure sustainability. Female reproductive tracts are examined to determine the number of foetal attachment(s) and premolar teeth provide their age - these data are used to calculate age at onset and frequency of lactation, and to monitor the potential orphaning rate resulting from the spring harvest of female bear.

Moose

- Moose populations remain low in the Turtle Mountain, Duck Mountain, and Porcupine Mountain areas, due, in part, to the slow recovery of these populations from losses to winter tick infestations and to increased access created by expanding forest extraction activities in some areas. The moose population in Riding Mountain has increased. Recent aerial surveys have confirmed that moose populations in GHAs 21 and 36 are low. Moose populations in other areas of the province seem stable, although below carrying capacity.

- 2008/09 licence sales continued to decline by two and five per cent respectively for resident (4,544) and foreign-resident clients (170). The decreases are attributed to the decrease in resident special draw moose licence sales and conservation moose packages, while the recession in the United States is the likely explanation for the decline in foreign-resident licence sales.

Elk

- Province-wide, the elk population is stable. The Duck Mountain herd remains stable at approximately 1,700 animals and the Porcupine Mountain herds remain stable at approximately 300 animals. The Spruce Woods population remains at about 600 animals. The South Interlake elk population is at approximately 1,000 animals. The Riding Mountain area population is estimated at approximately 2,200 animals, this herd remains below optimum levels mainly due the managed reduction of the Riding Mountain herd that was undertaken as part of the bovine tuberculosis (TB) management activities. A population target of 2,500 has been established for this herd. Normal-to-above-average snowfall and below normal temperatures within the elk range occurred this past winter. The impact of inclement spring weather is of concern, with below normal temperatures in April and May along with the significant snow fall in parts of the province may result in some loss of elk. In 2008/09, 2,693 elk licences were sold for resident rifle, archery, and landowner seasons.

Caribou

- A spring 2008 aerial survey of the Qamanirjuaq barren-ground caribou population has estimated that the population has decreased to 345,000 (± 46,000 animals). This population was last surveyed in 1994 when 495,000 animals were estimated. This caribou population is hunted by First Nations in Nunavut, Northwest Territories and Manitoba, and licensed resident, non-resident and foreign resident hunters in the three jurisdictions. In Manitoba, resident caribou licences for this population in GHA 1 are limited in availability to 400 first licences. Hunters who purchase a first licence can also purchase a second licence (400 licences). There are two caribou seasons for resident hunters – 175 first licences are available for the fall season and 225 first licences for the winter season. In GHA 2, a total of 120 licences were available, only 20 resident licences were sold. In GHA 3, all 75 licences that were available were sold. For 2008/09, a total of 497 resident, 229 second licence resident and 291 non-resident and foreign licences were sold. A summer 2008 aerial survey of the coastal caribou population in GHA 3 suggests that the population may have decreased to 3,241 animals, 36 animals were observed in Manitoba and 3,205 were observed in Ontario. A combined survey was conducted with Ontario Natural Resources. A repeat survey is planned for 2009. This population was last surveyed in 1994 when 10,978 animals were estimated.

Gray Wolf

- Wolves are common throughout forested and tundra habitats and are becoming increasingly common along the fringes of agricultural areas. Most wolf harvest is incidental while hunters are hunting for other big game species. It is estimated that fewer than 100 wolves are killed annually by hunters. Beginning in 2009, wolf hunting activities and harvest will be estimated through the Hunter Questionnaire Program.

Diseases in Wildlife

- Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is an Old World disease that was brought to North America by infected cattle and can be transferred to a variety of wildlife species. There has been evidence of low-level presence of bovine TB in the Riding Mountain area in white-tailed deer and elk.

- Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Parks Canada Agency (PCA), and Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the main program partners, prepare an annual Implementation Plan for Bovine TB Management in Manitoba, detailing surveillance, scientific studies to understand disease dynamics, disease containment, and eradication. Collectively, the agencies form the Bovine TB Task Group and review past work and plan for future endeavours.

- Over 9,250 elk and deer samples have been examined in the Riding and Duck Mountain areas between 1997 and 2008. In these areas, all elk and deer hunters are required to submit biological samples for disease testing, and PCA conducts annual live-capture and blood testing of elk and deer within Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP). In 2008, one hunter-submitted white-tailed deer sample was positive and an additional white-tailed deer and two elk tested positive for bovine TB within RMNP.

- Forty-one elk, mostly from the western portion of the Riding Mountain region, eight white-tailed deer sampled in the Grandview area, one deer in the Shoal Lake area and one elk from the Duck Mountain area have tested positive for TB over the eleven years of monitoring. The elk from the Duck Mountain was initially radio-collared in the Riding Mountain.

- Review of the information gathered from the extensive sampling of wild elk and white-tailed deer have identified an apparent geographically delimited area of bovine TB infection. The Western Control Zone has been identified as the northern portion of the Rural Municipality (RM) of Rossburn, the southern portion of the RM of Grandview, and includes the area of RMNP between these RMs. Efforts to eradicate bovine TB from Manitoba include increased activities within the Western Control Zone.

- An aerial survey of the Western Control Zone was undertaken in order to quantify density distribution of white-tailed deer and to identify potential high risk disease transmission sites. A point sample of 987 white-tailed deer was observed during the aerial survey. This is slightly below the 1,000-1,500 white-tailed deer that were thought to inhabit the area.

- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease affecting the deer family (cervids), including elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer and moose. This disease has been found in captive and wild deer and elk in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and several states. Despite management and containment efforts, the disease is expanding in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The Department remains vigilant in efforts to prevent the disease from spreading into the province and continues to monitor and consult with jurisdictions that have the disease, regarding research, management activities and control practices.

- From 2001 to 2009, the CWD surveillance program tested over 3,081 hunter-harvested white-tailed deer samples along the Saskatchewan and United States borders in south-western and southern Manitoba and over 1,699 elk samples from Riding Mountain and Duck Mountain areas.

- To date, CWD has not been detected in Manitoba's wild or captive cervids. Containment efforts in Saskatchewan and Alberta were monitored. Several initiatives were undertaken to prevent the introduction of the disease into Manitoba. These initiatives include a ban on the possession and use of any substance that contains materials from cervids; restrictions on the importation of live and dead cervids from other jurisdictions; and continued testing on deer and elk samples submitted under the tuberculosis monitoring program.

Non-resident Hunting Licence Allocation Program

In 2008 some 1,900 bear licences, 1,093 non-resident deer licences, 291 non-resident caribou licences, and 170 moose licences were purchased by non-resident alien hunters.

The *Allocation of Hunting Licences Regulation* MR 77/2006 was developed to provide more stability to the licence allocation process and to facilitate the collection of an allocation fee assessed on every non-resident alien licence sold by an outfitter.

Big Game Monitoring

The dynamics of some big game populations are evaluated annually to provide input to decisions on hunting seasons and other management tasks. There are three main categories of information, gathered through the following activities:

- Winter aerial surveys of some populations to estimate abundance, sex and age composition, recruitment and distribution.
- Mail questionnaires to estimate harvests, hunter effort and hunter distribution.
- Some biological specimen collection to assess age and reproductive status.

All data are entered into computer simulations (models) to estimate the consequences of alternative management options

Aerial Surveys

- The 2008/09 aerial survey program focused on population estimates for the following big game species - coastal caribou in GHA 3, elk in GHAs 13 and 13A, moose in GHA 36, and white-tailed deer in the Western Control Zone of the Riding Mountain area. Information gathered from these surveys will assist in providing baseline data for management decisions to ensure long-term sustainability of the coastal caribou, elk, moose and white-tailed deer populations.

- An aerial survey to estimate the size of the coastal caribou population in GHA 3 was conducted in July, 2008. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources conducted a similar survey during the same period between the Manitoba and Ontario border east to James Bay. The survey area in Manitoba was approximately 500 km². A total of 36 caribou were observed in Manitoba which consisted of 22 bulls, eight cows, four yearlings and two calves. A combined estimate of 3, 241 animals were observed. A similar survey was conducted in 1994 when a caribou population estimate of 10,798 animals was obtained. This survey is planned to be repeated in 2009.

- An aerial survey to estimate the size of the elk population in GHAs 13 & 13A was conducted in January, 2009. An area of 3,628.40 km^2 was delineated into 188 sample units. Stratification flights in the north half of the survey area observed no elk. The stratification flights in the southern half identified 96 sample units; 58 low density strata, 36 medium density strata and 2 high density strata. A total of 35 units were sampled which produced a point estimate of 303 elk ± 25% 90% C.I. (228 – 378). This estimate was similar to the 362 elk observed in the 1998 survey of this area.

- An aerial survey to estimate the size of the moose population in GHA 36 was conducted in late February, 2009. An area of 3,610.00 km^2 was delineated into 189 sample units. The GHA was divided into north and south survey areas. Stratification flights in the north and south survey areas resulted in no tracks or moose being observed. Therefore, all sample units were given a low density designation. A total of 49 units were intensively sampled and no moose were sighted. This suggests that the population is fewer than 50 animals.

- An aerial survey to estimate the size of the white-tailed deer population in the western portion of GHAs 23 & 23A and Riding Mountain National Park was conducted in February, 2009. The survey covered 100 per cent of the entire area and consisted of 105 sample units covering an area of approximately 1,800 km^2. A minimum population count of 987 white-tailed deer was observed. The survey flights identified 49 low density sample units, 21 low-medium density sample units, 18 high-medium density sample units and 17 high density sample units. 81 white-tailed deer was observed outside the western control zone. A total of 606 elk and 998 moose were also observed.

Biological Specimen Collection

- Hunters are required to submit teeth and reproductive tracts from harvested female black bears (in 2005 collection of teeth from males was discontinued). For submitting a complete sample, hunters receive a crest and pocket knife. These samples provide information on the reproductive status and potential orphaning rate of harvested females. Typically, samples are obtained from about 65 per cent of the annual estimated female bears harvested. Analysis of the 2007 and 2008 samples is ongoing.

Hunter Questionnaires, Big Game Seasons

- The analysis of the questionnaires sent out the previous year occurs early in each fiscal year, i.e. results reported in a given year are for the year before. In 2007/08, approximately 23,650 questionnaires were mailed and 15,438 responses received. The results are summarized below.

Table WI.3
Resident Hunter Big Game Harvest, 2007/08

Season	Licences Sold	Estimated Harvest
Deer rifle	29,255	18,329
Deer archery	3,320	1,071
Deer muzzleloader	9,248	5,617
Deer shotgun/muzzleloader	538	313
Deer (antlerless) second	9,400	5,648
Deer (antlerless) third	205	95
Moose rifle	3,166	721
Moose (conservation)	226	N/A
Moose (draw) rifle	1,072	195
Moose archery	132	8
Moose (draw) archery	40	15
Elk (draw) rifle	1,424	237
Elk (draw) archery	861	123
Elk (draw) landowner	390	95
Black Bear	1,463	480

- The 2008/09 big game harvest questionnaire will be delivered online. Postcards will be sent to 45,000 big game hunters (including 100 per cent of draw licence holders). The online questionnaire will be available to respondents until August 30, 2009. Results will be available in September/October 2009.

Problem Wildlife

The expanded Problem Beaver Management Program, consisting of the summer removal, winter subsidy and non-lethal components, was implemented for the eighth consecutive year. This program offered a subsidy of $15.00 per beaver taken from designated municipalities and then $20.00 per beaver for the winter component which included allocations to registered trapline districts. The winter subsidy encourages proactive harvest during the trapping season when the pelts have high market value. The summer removal program addresses beaver problems by encouraging their removal after the trapping season is closed. Municipalities with the greatest beaver problems are in the Western Region specifically Mountain, Ethelbert, Grandview, Gilbert Plains, and Mossey River.

The Problem Beaver Management Program again included a series of workshops throughout the province to demonstrate non-lethal methods to address problem beaver and to build capacity at the local level. This included the construction and installation of pond levellers and beaver deceivers. As well, problem beaver management workshops were offered in chronic problem areas. One workshop was held in Boggy Creek in response to a request from the Child's Lake Cottage Owners Association. The workshop was contracted to an independent consultant and delivered in co-operation and support of Manitoba Conservation District offices, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation and Municipal Corporations.

Other administrative changes to the program involved making the winter and summer components run consecutively, rather than with a long break separating them.

Table WI.4

Problem Beaver Removal Program Summary 2002/09 of seven top Municipalities and two Registered Trapline Sections.

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Total Beaver Taken	9,296	8,145	7,969	9,248	8,071	6,973	7,599
Municipality or RTL							
Ethelbert	412	301	299	387	287	251	606
Gilbert Plains	590	486	401	384	322	243	323
Grandview	457	348	180	365	306	189	298
Mossey River	242	164	274	278	48	259	139
Mountain	638	541	623	721	771	779	785
Park	599	664	694	752	597	78	100
Swan River	317	317	221	320	212	321	259
Duck Mountain RTL	892	1,081	924	899	791	788	793
Porcupine Mountain RTL	416	467	404	464	420	384	407

Problem Predator Removal Services Program was provided to Manitoba agriculture producers and other property owners through a $50,000 contract with the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA). The program provided for licensed trapper action following a predator (primarily coyotes and wolves) claim by a producer through Manitoba Agriculture Services Corporation (MASC). A total of 94 MASC claims were dealt with in 2008/09 and 55 wolves, 310 coyotes and 17 foxes were removed. These funds also provided for a predator control and animal husbandry workshop, which was held in Austin. The workshop featured presentations by Manitoba Conservation, MASC, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI). The MTA. MAFRI and MASC staff provided education extension information on animal husbandry to livestock producers who attended the workshops. Many of the attendees were livestock producers, hunters and trappers. Most responded that they believed the workshop was quite beneficial to them.

The Wildlife Crop Damage Compensation Program, administered by MASC, under Wildlife Regulation reimburses producers 80 per cent of the assessed value for wildlife damages to beehives and produce, for deer, elk and bear damage to crops and property, and for livestock loss or injuries from predators such as wolves. In 2008/09, MASC paid for damages caused by 96 deer claims and 157 elk claims to standing crops and stored hay that amounted to $529,033, while a total of 173 black bear claims accounted for $286,700 in damage claims. Rainfall in the central and south central Interlake delayed the grain harvest in 2008/09, and consequently the waterfowl crop damage compensation claims increased to $784,458 (361 claims) compared to the previous year (2007/08) when it was $449,400. Damage by black bears to leafcutter bee operations declined from $70,293 (20 claims) to $22,066 (eight claims) while damage to honey operations also decreased from $135,812 (83 claims) in 2007/08 to $68,629 (46 claims) in 2008/09.

The compensation claims under the Predator/Livestock Damage Compensation Program also administered by MASC declined from a record a high in 2007/08 ($522,125) to $430,170 in 2008/09.

It is not known how many Canada geese staged inside the perimeter highway last year. Due to favourable cereal grain harvest conditions, most crops were harvested well before migrant goose populations arrived in the city. In the past as many as 134,000 – 154,000 Canada geese staged inside the perimeter highway around the City of Winnipeg. Staff fielded calls from the public about property damage and health risks from goose droppings, vehicle accidents and threats by adult geese defending their broods. There is also a continued high level of concern for the possibility of aircraft collisions with geese. Many calls were directed to Environment Canada, the agency responsible for migratory bird management in Canada and the City of Winnipeg which is responsible for parks and many of the public green spaces within the city.

Through the Canadian Wildlife Directors' Committee, Manitoba has been promoting the concept for a national management strategy to be developed that addresses urban migratory bird management. Manitoba now expends over $10,000 per year to address the problems, but it continues to grow. Environment Canada, Transport Canada, and the Governments of Ontario and Manitoba are participating on a working group to address this emerging urban issue.

Several species of wildlife namely beaver, deer, and raccoons are creating conflict situations in urban environments particularly Winnipeg and those rural municipalities within the capital region. For deer, there are few natural predators in the region although more coyotes are being observed in close proximity of the city. Similar situations with deer are also being experienced in other urban areas such as Pinawa, Killarney, and the R.M. Gimli.

The City of Winnipeg and Manitoba Conservation staff are working toward developing a process to engage the citizens of Winnipeg in providing their views on the deer population within the City of Winnipeg.

A student from the University of Manitoba completed a Masters study on urban deer and human dimensions in Winnipeg and presented the results in a final thesis.

Staff from Manitoba Conservation also participate on the "Manitoba Wildlife Collision Stakeholders Committee" that includes representatives from Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI), City of Winnipeg, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities. Wildlife-vehicle collisions have become a major concern. As some wildlife population numbers increase, the number of collisions is also expected to increase. The role of the committee is to facilitate discussions, and identify and develop solutions that if implemented, would reduce the number of collisions.

Staff also represent the department on the Manitoba Road Safety Coordinating Committee (MRSCC) that has been established as the central co-ordinating body to address the significant human and socio-economic costs of road-related injuries and fatalities in Manitoba. Since wildlife account for approximately 10,000 accident claims in Manitoba, the department is involved in addressing this form of accident.

The Manitoba Be Bear Smart initiative was implemented in June 2005 with the goal to teach people how to reduce conflicts with black bears thereby increasing human safety and protecting private property. The initiative proposes three phases: 1) education and awareness; 2) a pilot study to identify the most effective strategies to encourage Bear Smart behaviour over the long-term; and 3) the positive outcomes derived from the study will be showcased to other Manitoba communities wishing to reduce conflict with bears. Branch staff held Bear Smart workshops and informational displays in Winnipeg, Victoria Beach, Rock Lake Colony, Ag Days, and the Brandon Royal Winter Fair where direct contact was made with over 1,500 people who visited the Be Bear Smart Display. Approximately 200 people attended the workshops and countless others visited the displays; both were well received by the public. An initiative to introduce a bear smart waste management pilot project in Grand Beach Provincial Park continued to be developed by Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch staff, park staff and district staff. Support was also provided to provincial park interpreters for their Bear Smart programs; over 70 of these events were attended by an estimated 3,000 people in 2008.

To reduce the human-bear conflicts, traditional waste collection bins were replaced within the Grand Beach Provincial Park with a bear-proof semi-automated containments and collection system. This system has been proven effective elsewhere in Canada e.g. Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba and Canmore, Alberta. By managing garbage more effectively it has been shown to reduce the number of human-bear encounters resulting in fewer bears have to be relocated or destroyed. It also improves the site aesthetics and addresses other wildlife species coming into conflict with people (raccoons, ravens and skunks etc.). A brochure entitled "*Be Bear Smart with Your Garbage*" was also developed to distribute though Grand Beach Provincial Park to inform people of the new system.

The Problem Black Bear District Occurrence Reports of problem black bear calls totalled 940 entries for 2008/09. Preliminary results showed that these occurrences (encounters) involved over 1,100 individual bears and the department investigated 689 of these and expended approximately $79,000 in doing so. Of the encounters from recreational areas 44.4 per cent of them were preventable as most of these involved bears eating bird seed, garbage or compost. The same was true of rural agricultural and rural residential areas where 49.3 per cent and 54.7 per cent respectively of the human-bear encounters involved bears eating bird seed, garbage or compost. Many of these encounters could have been prevented by proper storage of garbage and more care in managing compost. Removal of bird feeders could have prevented 86 of the 940 bear occurrences from coming into conflict with people.

Raccoons have become the wildlife species now coming into conflict most frequently in urban environments particularly within the City of Winnipeg. The number of complaints the Winnipeg District staff investigates has risen steadily and raccoons accounted for 84 per cent of the total wildlife DORs. It is not uncommon for district staff to respond to four or five raccoon complaints. In many situations, the conflicts could have been avoided by the property owners themselves by using simple methods like securing garbage can lids, removing over hanging branches from the roof and feeding pets indoors. Nationally, Quebec and Ontario have aggressive programs worth over $1.0 million annually to reduce their respective raccoon populations in an attempt to reduce the frequency of disease transmission of rabies and raccoon roundworm, both potentially fatal to humans. A similar situation is quickly developing in Winnipeg, which will likely require there be a concerted effort to reduce urban and rural populations of raccoons. This species, in terms of the number of conflicts, has already surpassed any other species of wildlife including white-tailed deer and Canada geese and will continue to increase.

Furbearer Management

The program helps to sustain populations of furbearers and promotes optimum harvests and economic, social, and cultural returns to trappers and their families. Both furbearer production and the number of each species sold by trappers are monitored. The program encourages humane trapping and promotes education and public understanding of furbearer management and the fur industry. Note that harvest and licence/permit information is based on the Fur Year, September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008.

The wild fur pelt market conditions were uncertain as prices generally dropped from the previous year. As well, other factors such as high gasoline prices caused some trappers to reduce their efforts.

- Marten are the most valuable furbearing species taken by trappers in Manitoba. The harvest in 2007/08 increased as predicted and reached 18,670 animals, compared to 15,318 animals in the previous year. In the last two decades, this species has re-occupied most available habitats in Manitoba, and marten numbers and the size of the harvest seem to be generally correlated with prey availability on a three to four year cycle. A peak harvest is expected in 2008/09 followed by a drop the next year.

- Lynx cycles continue to recover from the very low numbers in the 1980s. The current cycle has likely reached its trough, as the 2007/08 provincial harvest of 608 lynx was down from 686 the previous year; the cycle tends to be advanced by one year in the northern half of the province when compared to the southern half. Harvest overall is expected to remain low for another season.

- Coyote harvests were down to 8,296 from the 20-year high of 9,730 last year (2006/07). The number of animals is still believed to be high in southern Manitoba. Harvest peaks over the last few decades appear to be based on higher pelt prices, compared to the cyclical 10-year peaks seen in the first half of the 20th Century. Coyote numbers in natural situations are typically mediated by disease (such as mange) and prey availability.

- Red fox harvest was down slightly (to 2,022 in 2007/08 from 2,175). Incremental declines have been seen in the recent seasons, and could be attributed to the increasing coyote population in the agricultural areas of Manitoba, and some influxes into the boreal forest edges.

- An expected drop occurred in the otter harvest, to 920 this year, as compared to 1,015 last year. Prices remained low again, due to continuing export difficulties into China, the key market for Canadian pelts.

- The arctic fox harvest maintained a depressed situation, with 20 animals reported in 2007/08, after a low of 41 in 2006/07. The cyclical population of this species is influenced by the abundance of its prey species, particularly lemmings. A reduced pelt price of $14.01 average compared to $21.36 the previous year likely reduced trapper effort and contributed to the low harvest. Note that last year's harvest figure for arctic fox has been adjusted as there was a misprint. It was reported to be 461 but should have read 41.

- A lower average price for beaver pelts ($23.58 in 2007/08, from $27.22 previously) caused the harvest to drop significantly to 13,491. At the same time, populations remained relatively high in the agricultural areas, which resulted in significant problem incidents. The Problem Beaver Management Program, which subsidizes municipalities and registered trappers in certain RTL sections for problem beaver removal, is credited for keeping the harvest higher than it would have been. A lower beaver harvest would allow populations to increase and exacerbate flooding that damages municipal, provincial and private property. Ironically, beaver populations may have decreased over the last decade in the Duck Mountain Registered Trapline Section; during the same period, a similar decrease has been seen in nearby Riding Mountain National Park. The reasons for the decline in population are not known, but attributable to more than one factor.

- Wolverine populations are still believed to be stable-to-increasing. The harvest in 2007/08 was 25 animals, similar to 24 the previous year.

- The bobcat harvest returned to more-typical levels, with 11 taken in 2007/08 compared to 17 in 2006/07. Their population fluctuations follow a similar trend in North Dakota and Minnesota. This species is at the northern extent of its range in Manitoba.

- Trapping licence/permit sales reached 7,782 in 2007/08, similar to 7,736 from the previous year. This figure included 187 free Youth Trapping Licences/Permits, slightly down from the 204 figure the previous year. Trapper Education graduates aged 12 – 17 in Manitoba can obtain a no-fee Youth licence, similar to programs in other provinces.

- Staff worked with the Fur Institute of Canada's Trap Research and Development Committee on humane trapping devices and manufacturing standards. The Koro #1 trap for marten, manufactured by Koro Traps of Ste. Anne, became the third Manitoba trap certified as meeting the Canada-Russia-European Union Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards. All certified devices are annually listed in the Manitoba Trapping Guide.

- Considerable effort was again put into education services in 2008/09 fiscal year, leading to 187 students completing the Mandatory Trapper Education exam - similar to the 177 from the previous year. Workshop locations included Baldur, Cross Lake, Eriksdale, Gods Lake Narrows, Grand Rapids, Kleefeld, Norway House, Oxford House, Peguis, Pine Falls, Tramping Lake, Snow Lake, St. Theresa Point, Stead, Wabowden,.

- Trapper education workshop instructors for all trapper education events are from the Department and the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA). Tramping Lake Field Station was used by staff and students from University College of the North Resource Management Program.

Table WI.5

Fur Statistics, Year Ending August 31, 2008

Species	Quantity	Average Price $	Production Value $	% of Total Value	Royalty Per Pelt $	Royalty $
Badger	156	39.41	6,147.96	0.2	0.50	78
Bear	890	64.96	57,814.40	2.2	1.00	890
Beaver	13,491	25.54	344,560.14	12.9	0.50	6,746
Bobcat	11	138.75	1,526.25	0.1	1.00	11
Coyote	8,296	40.44	335,490.24	12.5	1.00	8,296
Ermine	5,396	4.61	24,875.56	0.9	0.05	270
Fisher	1,706	63.62	108,535.72	4.1	1.00	1,706
Fox, Blue	1	20.86	20.86	0.0	0.50	1
Fox, Cross	107	26.25	2,808.75	0.1	0.50	54
Fox, Red	1,972	26.25	51,765.00	1.9	0.50	986
Fox, Silver	30	26.25	787.50	0.0	0.50	15
Fox, White	20	19.57	391.40	0.0	0.50	10
Lynx	609	156.16	95,101.44	3.6	1.00	609
Marten	18,670	67.17	1,254,063.90	46.9	1.00	18,670
Mink	5,006	20.33	101,771.98	3.8	0.50	2,503
Muskrat	18,996	3.36	63,826.56	2.4	0.05	950
Otter	920	114.30	105,156.00	3.9	0.75	690
Raccoon	3,985	16.61	66,190.85	2.5	0.50	1,993
Squirrel	3,401	1.14	3,877.14	0.1	0.05	170
Wolf, Timber	372	119.66	44,513.52	1.7	1.00	372
Wolverine	25	216.29	5,407.25	0.2	2.50	63
Total	**84,060**		**$2,674,632**			**$45,080**

Notes:

1. The Department's Fur Year runs from September 1 - August 31. Starting with the 1995/96 *Annual Report*, statistics that relate to the Fur Year are based on the most recent complete Fur Year. The 2008/09 Annual Report is based on information for the 2007/08 Fur Year ending August 31, 2008.

Table WI.6

Trappers and Value of Wild Fur Production 1998/99 to 2007/08

Year	Number of Open Area Trappers	Number of Registered Trapline Trappers	Estimated Production Value $
1998/99	4,750	1,856	2,037,022
1999/00	4,276	1,669	1,967,404
2000/01	4,355	1,827	2,769,981
2001/02	4,958	1,764	2,448,804
2002/03	5,503	1,668	2,998,159
2003/04	5,817	1,708	3,039,009
2004/05	5,174	1,707	3,108,794
2005/06	5,511	1,709	3,183,904
2006/07	6,051	1,685	2,964,950
2007/08	6,037	1,745	2,674,632

Notes:

1. The Department's Fur Year runs from September 1 - August 31. Starting with the 1995/96 *Annual Report*, statistics that relate to the Fur Year are based on the most recent complete Fur Year. The 2008/09 Annual Report is based on contain information for the 2007/08 Fur Year ending August 31, 2008.

Table WI.7

Hunting Licences Sold 2008/09

Type of Licence	Fee $	Number Sold	Revenue $
Game Bird			
Resident	19.63	11,450	213,908
Non-resident	74.77	737	54,443
Non-resident Alien	140.19	4,658	649,071
Wild Turkey			
Resident	20.56	1,109	21,823
Resident – Youth	4.67	92	357
Moose			
Resident	46.73	4,393	202,474
Resident – Conservation	37.39	151	11,072
Non-resident	271.03	20	5,412
Non-resident Alien	327.10	170	55,437
Elk			
Resident	46.73	2,693	125,844
Caribou			
Resident	42.06	497	20,904
Resident – Second	93.46	229	21,402
Non-resident Alien	327.10	291	94,895
Black Bear			
Resident	28.04	1,546	41,940
Non-resident	93.46	61	5,670
Non-resident Alien	196.26	1,919	373,156
Deer			
Resident	32.71	42,800	1,349,237
Resident – Second	18.69	9,579	169,842
Resident – Third	18.69	222	3,942
Non-resident	140.19	790	110,215
Non-resident Alien	196.26	1,099	214,203
Youth Hunting Licence Package			
Resident	9.35	3,600	30,166
Total Licence Sales			
Resident		78,361	2,212,911
Non-resident		1,608	176,740
Non-resident Alien		8,137	1,386,762
Replacement	10.00	121	1,080
Grand Total		**88,227**	**$3,776,493**

Notes:

1. Statistics are as reported by March 31, 2009
2. Revenue figures are net (less vendor's commission).
3. Non-resident Caribou licences, valid for both Canadian and non-Canadian hunters, are included with the Non-resident Alien totals.
4. Resident Conservation Moose licences are issued as a 2 Licence/1 tag package (298 licences = 149 packages).
5. A Youth Turkey hunting licence for residents of Manitoba was introduced in 2003/04.
6. A Third Deer hunting licence for Residents of Manitoba was introduced in 2003/04.

Table WI.8
Hunting Licence Sales and Revenue 1999/00 to 2008/09

	Game Bird		Big Game		Totals	
Year	**# Sold**	**Revenue $**	**# Sold**	**Revenue $**	**# Sold**	**Revenue $**
1999/00	22,096	1,070,616	67,058	2,610,746	89,154	3,681,362
2000/01	19,742	950,234	62,830	2,640,246	82,572	3,590,480
2001/02	18,287	824,802	64,407	2,659,739	82,694	3,484,540
2002/03	17,850	896,328	64,154	2,677,818	82,004	3,574,145
2003/04	18,747	942,929	64,555	2,656,659	83,302	3,599,589
2004/05	17,058	1,036,647	66,594	2,851,505	83,652	3,888,152
2005/06	16,757	1,000,431	66,861	2,851,527	83,618	3,851,957
2006/07	18,367	1,028,879	70,554	2,903,367	88,921	3,932,246
2007/08	18,604	1,024,845	69,408	2,872,099	88,012	3,896,944
2008/09	18,046	939,602	70,181	2,836,891	88,227	3,776,493

Notes:

1. $5.00 per licence for wildlife enhancement was introduced in 1997/98.
2. Second licences for Resident and Non-resident Caribou hunters were introduced in 1999/00.
3. Youth hunting licence package for Residents of Manitoba was introduced in 1999/00.
4. Youth Turkey hunting licence for Residents of Manitoba was introduced in 2003/04.
5. Third Deer hunting licence for Residents of Manitoba was introduced in 2003/04.

Table WI.9
Wildlife Licence Revenue 2008/09

Type of Licence	Revenue $
Hunting Licences	
Game Bird Licences	917,422
Wild Turkey Licences	22,180
Moose Licences	274,395
Elk Licences	125,844
Caribou Licences	137,201
Black Bear Licences	420,766
Deer Licences	1,847,439
Youth Hunting Licence Package	30,166
Replacement Licences	1,080
Total – Hunting	**$3,776,493**
Commercial Licences	
Trapper Licences *	40,746
Fur Dealer Licences *	1,850
Amphibian Picker Licences	128
Total – Commercial	**$42,724**
Total Revenue	**$3,819,217**

* Reflects revenue for the 2007/08 Fur Year ending August 31, 2008 as reported by March 31, 2009. Other revenue is for the 2008/09 Licensing Year as reported by March 31, 2009.

Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring

Wildlife Lands Unit

The Wildlife Lands Unit develops policies, plans and programs to secure, protect and enhance wildlife habitat on Crown and private land. It is responsible for the management of lands designated for wildlife including wildlife management areas (WMAs), wildlife refuges and special conservation areas.

The Wildlife Lands Unit delivers the Heritage Marsh Program, an initiative to celebrate and better manage Manitoba's large wetland complexes. This includes land acquisition, habitat restoration, enhancement, vegetation and wildlife surveys, support for research, and the development of wildlife viewing and interpretation facilities. The Section also co-operates with the Tourism Secretariat of Manitoba Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport in the provision of wildlife-viewing facilities associated with the Watchable Wildlife Program.

Key activities include:

Wildlife Management Area Program

Habitat enhancement activities (e.g. control encroaching shrubs and trees on prairie sites to improve sharp-tailed grouse habitat) were carried out at various WMAs. Standard boundary signs were produced for WMAs and refuges.

The local advisory committee for the Lake Francis WMA continued to meet to discuss water levels in the lake and muskrat populations. Local guides continued to report exceptionally good success in the fall 2008 waterfowl hunting season in the Lake Francis WMA, while poor hunter success was experienced in the adjacent Delta Marsh WMA. A draw-down of Lake Francis and the exclusion of common carp proved successful in improving habitat conditions in the Lake Francis marsh complex.

Consultations were undertaken with several rural municipalities and First Nations regarding the possible establishment of new WMAs to support the Protected Areas Initiative.

Heritage Marsh Program

In the winter of 2008-09, two new trails were developed in the Oak Hammock Marsh WMA through the Heritage Marsh Program in partnership with the Watchable Wildlife Program. The redevelopment of the north observation mound area continued with the relocation and reshaping of the north mound, the construction of a new trail and loafing bar in the northernmost cell of the marsh. The loafing bar provides a safe resting place for pelicans, terns, shorebirds and a wide variety of waterfowl within easy viewing distance of the trail. Another trail and loafing bar were also constructed in the southernmost cell of the marsh, enhancing the attractiveness of the Oak Bluff site for wildlife viewing.

Support was provided to a partnership involving Ducks Unlimited's Institute for Wetlands and Waterfowl Research and the University of Manitoba concerning habitat, waterfowl, fisheries and muskrats in the Saskatchewan River Delta.

A multi agency working group was established to develop a strategy to restore Delta Marsh. Initial work has focussed on excluding adult common carp from the marsh in an effort to reduce the turbidity of the water and the damage to emergent and submerged vegetation caused by feeding and spawning carp. Carp are an alien invasive fish species that are largely responsible for the destruction of wetland habitat in the Delta Marsh WMA and adjoining private wetlands. Considerable progress was made in determining management approaches that could effectively exclude adult common carp from the marsh with the least impact on native fish species and the interchange of water between the marsh and Lake Manitoba.

Wildlife Management Area Maintenance

The Wildlife Enhancement Initiative funded maintenance and enhancement of WMAs, including boundary definition in the Peonan Point and Whitemud watershed WMAs and weed control in several southern WMAs. Leafy spurge continues to be a major challenge in southwestern Manitoba and has spread to native prairie communities in many WMAs.

Land Management and Use

The section reviewed over 500 land-use proposals to assess impacts to wildlife habitat. These included applications for general permits and leases, sales, and exchanges of Crown land, Treaty Land Entitlement and municipal development plans and zoning by-laws and amendments. Policy proposals were reviewed to evaluate impacts on wildlife, habitat, land management, and use.

Habitat Stewardship Unit

The Habitat Stewardship Unit is responsible for development and management of provincial projects for the federal/provincial habitat stewardship programs including Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk (HSP) and management of the Agro-Manitoba Critical Wildlife Habitat Program (CWHP). The CWHP is a cost-shared initiative involving Manitoba Conservation, the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC) and a variety of other agencies, which are involved on a project specific basis. The CWHP goal is to identify, preserve and manage remaining critical habitats, especially native grasslands and habitats of unique, rare and endangered species. This Unit also provides the link between the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and MHHC in the delivery of habitat enhancement and protection programs.

Key activities include:

Habitat Stewardship

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch staff, in conjunction with a co-ordinator under contract to CWHP, is involved in implementing projects in partnership with the federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk (HSP) in Manitoba. Activities include development of species and landscape priorities for Manitoba, development and review of projects, review and recommendation of project funding (as a member of the Working Group), implementation and reporting.

Federal funds, matched a minimum of 1:1 by provincial and other partners' funds, are available for projects that address the habitat stewardship needs of species at risk. Although federally listed species at risk are the first priority for this program there are also opportunities to work on provincially listed species. Approved projects target private lands, provincial Crown lands, and municipal lands, through stewardship programs delivered by various organizations to landowners, lease holders, resource users, and communities.

In 2008/09, $969,165 in federal funding was received for all HSP projects in Manitoba with $842,815 of that going to Manitoba Conservation/MHHC projects. Matching funds and in-kind contributions totalling $1,567,400 were provided by the province, conservation agencies, industry, and community groups in support of all Manitoba HSP projects.

CWHP funds provide a portion of the provincial cash match for HSP projects.

Tall Grass Prairie Preserve

The department continued to chair the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve Management Committee in 2008/09. Other agencies actively involved in the preserve include MHHC, the Manitoba Naturalists Society, Environment Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The committee produced an annual work plan for field activities at the preserve and the Department funded some of the delivery costs. Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the Manitoba Naturalists Society supported monitoring and management activities on the Preserve. The committee directs ongoing monitoring and management activities for the properties belonging to Preserve partners or under conservation agreement.

The section continued to cover the monitoring expenses of the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve biological staff, plus two Green Team staff persons who assist with field activities. Monitoring of rare orchids, insects, songbirds, permanent sample plots for plant community assessment, and management prescriptions continued to be among the key field activities on preserve lands. Weather station data continued to be collected at the Preserve. In 2008/09, 5,383 flowering stems of Western Prairie Fringed-orchid and 2,089 flowering stems of Great Plains' ladies-tresses were counted on preserve properties and in roadside ditches in the area. Small White Lady's-slippers' numbers were monitored at four permanent plots. A total of 586 plants were counted on these plots. Due to time constraints the Western Prairie Fringed-orchid permanent plots were not monitored in 2007. Banding under the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program was done in 2008/09 and 93 birds were banded and 25 recaptures were also caught. A new species was banded in 2008, a black-throated blue warbler. Song-bird surveys were completed and 27 species were recorded. Sharp-tailed grouse surveys continued in 2008/09 and five dancing grounds or leks were active of the 11 sites surveyed. Five new properties (720 acres in total) acquired recently by the Nature Conservancy of Canada were inventoried in 2008/09 and the vegetation was mapped. Special note was made of species at risk such as the Riddell's goldenrod, as well as provincially rare species.

Approximately 50 leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) patches were visited early in the flowering time (June 14-18). Any plants found were pulled out. Trees of several clones of aspen were girdled to kill the trees and in so doing, control aspen encroachment. Preserve staff attended a prescribed burning refresher course in Minnesota and assisted with burns on four Preserve burn units.

The Preserve Management Committee permitted grazing by five co-operators on 12 Preserve properties totalling 2,236 acres in 2008. At the end of the grazing season the condition of all grazed properties were assessed to document the impacts of grazing activities so that adjustments could be made to livestock numbers and grazing duration if necessary. Ongoing vegetation monitoring was carried out at two grazing project sites to determine the effects of grazing on the tall grass prairie ecosystem, especially potential impacts on species at risk.

The Preserve is becoming well known for research opportunities from various universities and organizations. In 2008/09, three research projects were implemented on Preserve lands including studies on Poweshiek skippers; habitat assessments for grassland birds and soil sampling.

Preserve biologists also delivered the Manitoba Naturalists Society School Program in May, June, September, and October. Presentations were given to eight schools. Six groups participated in the on-site field trip as a follow-up to the school presentation.

A float was entered in three local parades (Vita, Gardenton and Steinbach) to promote the Preserve and Prairie Day. Preserve staff organized a full day of activities at the Prairie Shore Interpretive Trail for the 2008 Prairie Day. Seventy-three registered guests and 25 children attended in addition to 22 volunteers and seven presenters. A number of local families were among the participants, as well as five home school families from Winnipeg. Five organizations brought displays to the event and there were plenty of hands-on activities for both adults and children.

Mixed-grass Prairie Projects

Inventory and grazing demonstration projects continued in the mixed-grass prairie region in the southwest area of Manitoba in 2008-09.

The goal of the inventory was to determine the extent and quality of mixed-grass prairie habitat remaining in Manitoba. Fifty-seven sites totalling approximately 15,928 acres were inventoried in 2008 bringing the overall total to 188,479 acres inventoried. A total of 25 new sites on 7,328 acres were inventoried and 18 were graded as C or better. A "C" grade means it is in good condition or has the potential to return to good condition with proper management. In addition to new inventories the project continued to focus on revisiting higher quality sites to monitor any threats or changes in habitat quality since the sites were originally inventoried. Landowners on these sites were interviewed to assess their attitudes and awareness about mixed-grass prairie management and conservation. Fifteen sites on 26 quarter sections were reassessed and 12 landowners participated in interviews. Only two sites decreased in quality from previous inventory. One site was hayed and the rest were grazed by cattle. Seven of the 11 landowners grazing their properties used some form of rotational grazing. Three landowners reported problems with encroachment of woody species and five had problems with weedy species, primarily leafy spurge. Seven landowners had observed or were aware of species at risk on their property. All landowners expressed an interest in learning more about species at risk on their land and most would be comfortable knowing that their land management was beneficial to that species.

The Mixed-grass Prairie Grazing Project promotes agricultural activities that incorporate wise land stewardship and biodiversity conservation by entering into agreements with landowners to implement the twice-over rotational grazing system on native grasslands. In 2008/09, ten 5-year agreements were signed to protect 1,619 acres of native grasslands. Various extension activities including a tour and a three-day workshop were held to allow landowners with native pastures to learn more about the principles behind the success of the twice-over system, and to demonstrate how the system can be used as a tool to enhance native grasslands for wildlife and livestock producers. Grass biology, prescribed burning, twice-over grazing and improved profitability were the main topics of discussion.

Fifteen Mixed-grass Prairie Grazing Project sites were visited to assess the quality of the prairie and change over time. Ten were new grazing projects inventoried to establish a baseline for the site. Of the five existing pastures, two improved in grade and three remained the same.

Seven project co-operators whose 5-year agreements had expired were interviewed to document their experience and obtain feedback for the project. Five of the seven noted positive changes on their pastures. Six of the 7 plan to continue with the rotation and would implement twice-over grazing on additional lands.

Grazing project staff participated in the Manitoba Grazing School, Manitoba Conservation Districts Annual Convention and the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association Annual Meeting.

Cattle were weighed as they went onto and were taken off of seven pastures to collect data on rate of gain and pasture performance.

Additional funding for both the inventory and grazing project was provided by Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.

Ecosystem Monitoring Unit

The Ecosystem Monitoring Unit is responsible for monitoring the quality of Manitoba's terrestrial environment, which includes collecting data to determine the effects of industrial emissions and land-use changes on terrestrial ecosystem components (soil, vegetation, wildlife and habitat). Data that is collected and the extensive technical knowledge base of the staff enables the Unit to deliver scientifically based recommendations and technical support toward maintaining the quality of terrestrial ecosystems.

Key activities include:

- Sampled vegetation and soil at permanent monitoring sites near Flin Flon to assess the long-term effects of emissions from the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. Ltd. (HBM&S) smelter on boreal forest communities in the region.
- Conducted vegetation and soil sampling at several impacted areas in and around Flin Flon that are being revegetated through efforts of the Flin Flon/Creighton Green Project. Sampling will continue in 2009. Results will be compared with data collected from the sites in the past to provide an overall assessment of the progress of revegetation work being conducted by the Green Project.

- Conducted a soil sampling program in Winnipeg to determine levels of lead in surface soils of playgrounds, parks, and recreational grounds in the vicinity of past and present point sources of lead.
- Established a program to monitor plant species colonization and growth at the Ruttan Mine site near Leaf Rapids, MB. Monitoring plots were set up and soil and vegetation data were collected. Plots were also established to assess the growth and development of conifer seedlings planted at the site in spring 2008. Monitoring will continue in 2009.

Environmental Impact Assessment

Seventy development proposals under *The Environment Act* were reviewed in 2008/09; a slight decrease over the 83 reviewed in 2007/08. They included proposals for wind energy projects, highway upgrades, portable asphalt plants, irrigation projects, wastewater-treatment facilities, crop protection warehouses, bulk fertilizer facilities, battery operating permits, and town water supplies. Thirty four draft licences were reviewed, along with 20 Sustainable Development Innovation Fund (SDIF) proposals, and the annual operating plans for the forestry industry companies Louisiana Pacific Canada, Tolko Manitoba, and Tembec.

Mitigation of Development Impacts to Wildlife in Manitoba

The branch continued to participate in the Forest Practices Committee in 2008/09, which is developing forest practices to mitigate or minimize the impacts of forestry activities on ecosystems and the habitats that support wildlife.

Work continues on the branch's reference document, Mitigation of Development Impacts to Wildlife in Manitoba. The document describes measures to mitigate disturbances on wildlife and wildlife habitat from developments and land uses including forestry, highway and hydro construction, and mining exploration and development.

Biodiversity Conservation

The section provides information and services to sustain Manitoba's natural biological diversity. It contains the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre, which links Manitoba to other conservation partners and assists the province in meeting its International, National and Provincial agreements to conserve biodiversity, including species at risk. The authoritative information provided by the Centre is used in a variety of proactive ways, including Protected Areas Planning, Regional Integrated Resource Management, and Environmental Impact Assessment. The Centre promotes the social and economic well being of Manitobans through adherence to the principles of sustainable ecological development.

Section activities are focused on three main program areas co-ordinated by a standardized spatial computer database maintained by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre:

1. Inventory and Monitoring of species of conservation concern, including species listed under the *Endangered Species Act* (Manitoba) and/or the federal *Species at Risk Act*.
2. Conservation Status Assessment of over 4,000 species of animals and plants found in Manitoba.
3. Recovery or Management strategies and plans are developed and implemented for listed Species at Risk.

Other key section activities include:

1. Policy and Procedures development, especially for Species at Risk.
2. Education, Research and Outreach

These programs and activities depend on the participation and co-operation of Manitoba citizens to assist in the conservation of our natural biological diversity.

Manitoba Conservation Data Centre

The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC) is a member of NatureServe International (www.natureserve.org), a network of 84 similar centres monitoring biodiversity throughout the Western Hemisphere, and also a member of NatureServe Canada, an organization to which CDCs from all Canadian provinces and one territory belong. The CDC completes an annual exchange of data integrating Manitoba's data with the entire network. Information from the Canadian CDC databases is recognized by Canadian Wildlife Service and Parks Canada as being a key component of their efforts to monitor and conserve species at risk.

Specific highlights from 2008/09 include:

- Development of the first mapped occurrences in the CDC database for Polar Bear dens in Wapusk National Park, based on provincial flight surveys from the 1970s – an important baseline data set for assessing the effects of climate change on this Threatened species.

- Completion of an overhaul of all CDC database records for Burrowing Owl and Western Prairie Fringed-orchid, both listed as Endangered under Manitoba's *Endangered Species Act* (ESA) and Canada's *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Data enhancement efforts were completed hundreds for other ESA- and SARA-listed species occurrences, bringing the records up to current network-wide specifications.

- Development and adoption of an annual data maintenance plan, that will result in newly-collected data for high-priority rare and at-risk species being entered on a regular schedule.

- Production of a series of maps and identification guides for plant species at risk in southeastern Manitoba that enabled weed districts, provincial and municipal maintenance workers to conduct maintenance of road allowances while avoiding areas where species at risk may be flowering or producing seed.

- Increased interaction between the CDC and Manitoba Hydro: first, to develop a provincial-scale map of Manitoba's species at risk, for broad-level screening by Manitoba Hydro staff working in the vicinity of its generating facilities; second, to proactively review planned infrastructure upgrades in eastern Manitoba that results in more straightforward approval for Hydro and in the provision of new rare species data to the CDC by Hydro's project consultants.

- Implementation of a request-tracking system to monitor all incoming information requests from arrival to delivery of service, and to enable development of associated performance measures.

- Completion of 167 requests for information on known locations of rare/at risk species, from provincial and federal government departments, consultants, universities, students and members of the public.

- Completion of an annual data exchange with NatureServe, integrating Manitoba's data with that of the entire NatureServe network.

Table WI.10
Summary of information in Manitoba Conservation Data Centre's Biotics Database

Information Type	Plant[1]	Animal[2]	Plant Community	Animal Other[3]	Total
Number of Elements[4]	2,814	2,125	174	12	5,125
Number of Rare to Uncommon Elements	555	369	50	0	9,057
Number of Source Features[5]	6,057	5,439	70	359	7,707
Number of Element Occurrences[6]	2,224	1,194	70	203	3,506

1. Includes vascular plants, non-vascular plants and fungi.
2. Includes vertebrate and invertebrate animals.
3. Includes elements such as waterbird colonies, and snake and bat hibernacula.
4. An element is a distinct plant or animal species, or vegetative community known to occur in Manitoba.
5. A Source Feature is based on a discrete observation of a provincially rare plant, animal or vegetative community found at a specific geographic location, i.e. a nest, or a patch of flowering plants.
6. An Element Occurrence is a record of a provincially rare plant, animal or vegetative community found at a specific geographic location, that has conservation value to the element, i.e. an important breeding location.

Inventory and Monitoring Program

Rare Plant Inventory and Monitoring

Fieldwork to locate provincially rare plant species is key to the assessment of candidate species at risk, and to the management and recovery of species at risk. In 2008/09, fieldwork was conducted at 90 sites by staff of the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC), and additional reports of rare species were provided by a number of partners and interested individuals.

Highlights in 2008/09 included:

- Discovery of two new locations for Gattinger's Agalinis, bringing the total in the province to three. This plant was first found here in 2007, and is listed as Endangered in Canada under *The Species at Risk Act (SARA)*.
- Receipt of a report for a new occurrence of Small White Lady's-slipper near Oak Lake, making it the westernmost location for the species in Canada.
- Completion of a survey of possible habitat for Plains Rough Fescue in western Manitoba, in partnership with Nature Conservancy Canada. This grass species was found on eight of the 18 quarter sections surveyed, but was not observed as a dominant species in any of the locations.
- Cooperation with the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) on surveys for three plants species at risk on First Nations land. Sharing of information and technical assistance to CIER and its project staff resulted in two of the three species being found.

Breeding Bird Surveys

Manitoba Conservation continues to promote and coordinate involvement of skilled local volunteers in the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). The BBS assesses changes in abundance and distribution of birds along predetermined routes that are surveyed using standardized protocol each year. It is especially useful for assessing the status of songbird species that are not monitored adequately by other surveys. Local and national BBS data reveal that more species are increasing than decreasing in numbers. The data also reveals that certain groups, such as grassland-nesting and insectivorous species, have undergone particularly large, and in many cases, significant declines since BBS surveys began in 1966. 2008 was a productive year for the BBS in Manitoba with a total of 61 BBS routes being run by 39 different observers. A total of 223 species were recorded along BBS routes in Manitoba during 2008.

Threatened Grassland Bird Monitoring

After nearly disappearing in Manitoba during the late 1990s, and with no verified nesting records for several years between 2000 and 2006, Burrowing Owls had a real banner year with a total of 11 nesting pairs and almost as many single birds being seen or reported during 2008. Even more significant was the sightings of several lone birds and three nesting pairs in southeastern Manitoba and in the Winnipeg area. Nesting success was also very high as all eight nesting pairs in southwestern and south-central Manitoba successfully raised young, and the average number of young recorded per nesting pair (5.9) was among the highest ever observed in Manitoba.

A total of 38 nesting Ferruginous Hawk pairs were recorded in Manitoba during 2008, up slightly from the 36 found in 2007 but considerably less than the 50-55 nesting pairs observed annually during the early to mid 1990s. Nevertheless, the species has made an amazing comeback in the province, as it was absent from the early 1920s through 1984. Noticeable reductions in ground squirrel numbers in nesting areas since the mid-1990s has resulted in reduced nesting success in recent years, however this trend appears to be changing. Nesting success in 2008, for instance, was well above average with 79 per cent of the pairs successfully raising young and successful pairs reared an average of 3.0 young per pair. As in previous years, the majority of nesting pairs in Manitoba utilized artificial nests consisting of a stick-filled wire basket and situated in large trees that are isolated from disturbance and close to suitable hunting pastures.

Nesting populations of Loggerhead Shrike have declined noticeably in south-western Manitoba coinciding with widespread declines throughout much of the species range. A total of 49 nesting pairs were located in 2008, much reduced from the 109 pairs recorded in 2000 and 327 pairs located as recently as 1993. Recent declines in nesting success and abundance have been attributed to higher than normal mortality of adults and young in the nesting and wintering ranges as well as on migration, increased predation on nests and young, and to heightened mortality of nestlings during extended cool, wet periods in recent summers.

Monitoring of other rare and endangered grassland passerines in 2008 supported a recent trend towards slightly reduced numbers and decreased overall nesting range for Sprague's Pipit, Baird's Sparrows and several other declining grassland specialists in southern Manitoba. Although Sprague's Pipit numbers appear to be stable with little overall decline evident in recent years, Baird's Sparrows have become extremely localized and rare even in the extreme southwest.

Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Monitoring

Intensified monitoring and conservation efforts have been carried out to preserve or recreate habitat for the Endangered Eastern Loggerhead Shrike (*migrans* subspecies) population in recent years since there are believed to be less than 50 *migrans* Loggerhead Shrike pairs remaining in Canada. During 2008, only five birds were observed near Winnipeg and only one of two pairs nested successfully. Young were banded and returning adults were checked for bands. Although a small percentage of the young return to nest, low return rates of both young and adults suggest that excessive mortality after fledging, on migration, and in the wintering range may be related to ongoing declines in this subspecies.

Owl Monitoring

The Manitoba Volunteer Nocturnal Owl Survey had another successful year with 78 volunteers surveying 73 routes covering 1213 kilometres of roads and trails. Surveyors detected 144 owls. On average, one owl was detected every five kilometres. As in previous years, the two most abundant species detected were the Northern Saw-whet Owl and the Great Horned Owl. The detection rates (number per kilometre) for all but the Saw-whet Owl (decreased) remained the same as in 2007. The survey's results help determine if Manitoba trends are local or more widespread across the species' North American range. Graduate research on the Barred Owl and Burrowing Owls was initiated and monitoring of Great Gray Owls and their prey continue.

Conservation Status Assessment Program

Federal-Provincial Initiatives under Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk in Canada

Participation on international and federal-provincial working groups and committees ensures that Manitoba's efforts to assess and conserve biological diversity are co-ordinated with those of other countries and Canadian jurisdictions. Implementing programs for species at risk and biodiversity demonstrates Manitoba's commitment to the Accord and the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy.

Report on the General Status of Wildlife in Canada: In 1998, the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council requested that federal and provincial/territorial governments co-operate to assess and report on general status of wildlife (including plants) every five years, starting in 2000. A federal-provincial working group was established. The second (2005) report was released in spring 2006 and is available at www.wildspecies.ca. The 2005 report includes assessments of all vascular plants, amphibians, reptiles, birds, freshwater and marine fishes, and mammals, as well as selected groups of invertebrates including dragonflies, tiger beetles, butterflies, freshwater mussels, and crayfish.

The **Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and the Manitoba Endangered Species Advisory Committee**: Departmental staff and Water Stewardship staff participates in these national and provincial assessment process to determining which species are at risk by reviewing and contributing to status reports.

Biodiversity Convention Office: Manitoba participates on a Federal-Provincial-Territorial Biodiversity Working Group that is implementing programs such as bio-infomatics, reporting on status and trends in biodiversity, and eco-citizenship, including stewardship.

Recovery and Management Program

Recovery efforts were implemented for 25 species at risk in Manitoba, an investment of over $500,000. Species at risk included Woodland Caribou (Boreal population), Piping Plover, Wood Bison, Dakota Skipper, Ottoe and Poweshiek Skipper, Prairie Skink, Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Sprague's Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike (eastern and western subspecies), Small White Lady's-slipper, Hairy Prairie-clover, Buffalograss, Ross's Gull, Western Spiderwort, Smooth Goosefoot, Western Silvery Aster, Riddell's Goldenrod, Whooping Crane, Ivory Gull, Long-billed Curlew, Short-eared Owl, Wolverine, and Western Prairie Fringed-orchid.

Highlights of some of these efforts are presented below:

Butterfly Species at Risk

Research and monitoring activities in cooperation with the University of Winnipeg continued at the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve (TGPP). A graduate student has been recruited to examine the relationship between life history and biology of the Poweshiek skipper. Determination of the vegetative and physical characteristics of preferred sites and an analysis of movement patterns between preferred sites will assist in improving management strategies for the species in the TGPP.

Collaboration with the National Recovery Teams continued for Ottoe Skipper, Poweshiek Skipper and White Flower Moth and known locations of these species have been provided to assist in the determination of their critical habitat in Manitoba.

Chitek Lake Wood Bison Recovery and Management

The last population survey in March 2009 found 208 bison, giving a population estimate of approximately 300 animals. The herd has grown steadily since 21 bison were introduced in two groups in 1991 and 1996.

Chitek Lake is located within the traditional use area of Skownan First Nation and Manitoba Conservation is working co-operatively with the First Nation to finalize and implement a Wood Bison Management Plan.

Piping Plover Recovery

The Piping Plover Recovery Program received financial support from the Manitoba Special Conservation Fund, the federal Habitat Stewardship Fund and from Manitoba Hydro during 2008. Piping Plover nesting populations in Manitoba have declined from 130 birds in 1990 to eight nesting birds (four pairs) during 2008. Recent declines in Manitoba have been largely attributed to habitat loss caused by above-normal water levels that have persisted in some of the best nesting lakes and increased vegetation encroachment at many former nesting beaches on Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg. Increased human disturbance at popular nesting beaches and increased predation on nests and chicks have also been linked with reduced nesting success.

Intensive management and stewardship efforts that have been carried out in Manitoba during recent years have resulted in increased nesting success and more young being raised in recent years. Water levels in many former sites remain high, however, resulting in delayed recovery of Manitoba plover populations. Efforts to restore former habitat continued at Grand Beach in an effort to restore habitat conditions at Manitoba's foremost nesting site. During 2008, two of these restored nesting sites were occupied by nesting pairs. Young were raised at both of the restored sites. Efforts to restore habitat at West Grand Beach, which had become overgrown with shrubby vegetation, produced immediate results as two pairs nested in recreated habitat, each raising multiple young. One other pair that utilized a parking lot at Grand Beach was also successful, whereas a fourth pair that nested at Elk Island was unsuccessful. Nevertheless, the eight chicks that were raised by four nesting pairs during 2008 is much better than long-term productivity for pairs in that area, and exceeds the 1.25 chicks per nesting pair target outlined in the National Piping Plover Recovery Strategy.

Stewardship and recovery activities undertaken in 2008 included early installation of protective fencing and signage at all major nesting sites to reduce chances of nests or pairs being disturbed by human recreational activities, temporary fencing and signage erected around feeding areas frequented by family groups, intensive all-day observations of plover family groups during the first two weeks to insure maximum survival of young, and communicating and working with the public and parks staff to eliminate disturbance to pairs, nests and chicks. Exclosure cages were also installed on all nests to protect them from predators, and a Piping Plover Guardian Program at Grand Beach increased public awareness and participation in conservation measures at this key nesting site.

Grassland Birds at Risk Recovery Program

Manitoba's Threatened Grassland Birds Program oversees monitoring and recovery efforts for threatened and declining grassland birds in southern Manitoba. Buoyed by the presence of Burrowing Owls in the Spruce Woods area as well as other historic nesting records and reports from that area, the Tiger Hills Conservation District received a grant from the Special Conservation Fund to install artificial nesting burrows in 10-20 suitable pastures in the Stockton-Glenboro area south of Spruce Woods Park.

Recovery efforts for Ferruginous Hawks have included installation of artificial nests in sturdy trees near suitable foraging pastures and in sites where pairs would not be subjected to disturbance. During the late 1980s and 1990s, over 400 artificial nests were erected in Manitoba. During the past decade, nearly three-quarters of the nesting Ferruginous pairs have nested in artificial nests, resulting in higher reproductive success of nesting pairs in these areas.

Efforts to stem the decline of Loggerhead Shrikes in southern Manitoba have been more challenging since reasons for the decline are not always obvious. Recent efforts have focussed on gaining a better understanding on limiting factors and return rates Nest covers that have been installed in areas where predators appear to be a problem have proven to be effective in improving reproductive success. Increasing numbers of young raised in these areas is critical to maintenance of these populations as young shrikes tend to return to nesting areas where they were raised. To obtain data on survival and return rates, young in monitored nests are banded and returning adults are examined to assess their banding status on an annual basis.

Boreal Woodland Caribou Recovery

Manitoba continues to work closely with the forest industry, other stakeholders and First Nations to protect boreal caribou habitat and to ensure there is an adequate supply of their life requirements over the long-term.

Education, Research and Outreach

Endangered Species and Biodiversity

Presentations on Manitoba's Endangered Species and Biodiversity Programs were delivered on a variety of occasions including to the Winnipeg Club of Rotary International; The Wildlife Society 2008 Joint Meeting of Central Mountains and Plains and the Canadian Sections at Gimli, Manitoba; and at Oak Hammock Marsh's 3rd Annual Festival of Dragonflies.

Red-sided Garter Snake

The hibernacula at Narcisse remain popular with Manitobans and non-residents who visit each spring to watch the snakes emerge. The abundance of snakes in the Interlake also continues to attract scientists from several major universities in the United States to study the ecology, physiology and reproductive biology of the species.

Cougar

The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch held information sessions for the public in Grand Beach and Birds Hill Provincial Parks. The branch was also invited to provide information on the status of cougar in Manitoba to directors of the Whiteshell Cottaging Association and at the Association's annual general meeting. The sessions conveyed information on the biology and ecology of cougar and advice on what to do if encountering a cougar. Over 800 people were in attendance at these sessions. The branch also provided training seminars on cougar to Provincial Park Interpretive staff and to Manitoba Conservation staff in Eastern Region.

Polar Bear Education and Outreach

Section staff participated for the fifth year in an educational program for high school students organized by Polar Bears International, a non-profit organization dedicated to conservation of polar bears through education. Fifteen high school students from Canada, USA, Australia and Denmark travelled to Winnipeg and Churchill to learn about polar bear biology and issues in polar bear management. The program also provided an opportunity for students to learn first-hand about the impact of climate change on the arctic.

An outstanding high school student from Fort Richmond Collegiate in Winnipeg was the recipient of the department's 4th annual Biodiversity Conservation Award at the Manitoba Schools Science Symposium. The award consists of a scholarship provided by Polar Bears International to attend the Churchill camp on climate change and its impacts on polar bears and is presented to an exemplary project at the Intermediate Level in Animal Biology or Environmental Studies. Section staff judged projects and interviewed finalists to select the winner.

Research

Manitoba Conservation staff supervised and/or served on graduate student committees including:

- M.Sc. student Jaimee Dupont, Bioscience, Technology and Public Policy, University of Winnipeg is researching the biology and ecology of Poweshiek Skipper butterflies with the aim of improving management strategies for the species in the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve.

Research Permits

- Section staff reviewed and recommended for approval 23 requests for scientific research permits or amendments to existing permits bringing the total number of new and ongoing research projects on non-game wildlife in the province to 31.

- Researchers from within and outside of Manitoba investigated the biology and ecology of species ranging from endangered butterflies to frogs, snakes, small mammals, raptors and polar bears.

Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement

Less than ideal fall harvest conditions in south central Manitoba contributed to delayed harvest in several locations. These conditions resulted in increased compensations claims at $510,120 from the previous year by ducks, geese and sandhill cranes. Field delivery of the Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program cost $302,737. The program operated two feeding stations and nine Crown land lure crops in damage-prone areas. Of these lure crops eight could not be salvaged due to excessive moisture conditions. The program provides farmers with cracker shells, lends scarecrows and propane scare cannons to protect crops. A total of 23 scare-cannon depots were set up to provide farmers ready access to equipment.

The program operated within the context of a Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement for the year, with the agreement being ratified fro the 2008/09 program year.

Table WI.11
12.4(f) Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,179	32.29	2,116	63	
Other Expenditures	1,233		1,243	(10)	
Grant Assistance	995		996	(1)	
Canada Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement	327		354	(27)	
Total 12.4(f)	**4,734**	**32.29**	**4,709**	**25**	

Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund

The Fund is administered by the Sustainable Resource and Policy Management Branch. This Fund provides support to non-profit community-based organizations to undertake projects that will enhance the natural resources of the province. It also encourages organizations to develop local projects that foster better understanding of natural resources issues and the environment. All projects must meet provincial and federal regulatory requirements. In 2007/08 the Fund granted $164,020 to nine applicants.

Table SC.1

12.4(g) Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Grant Assistance	193	0.00	250	(57)	
Total 12.4(g)	**193**	**0.00**	**250**	**(57)**	

Lands and Geomatics

Comprised of Crown Land Operations (Crown Land and Treaty Land Entitlement Programs) and Remote Sensing and Land Mapping Services (Geomatics), the Branch is responsible for the management and control of provincial Crown lands that are governed under *The Crown Lands Act* and *The Wild Rice Act*, and the provision of mapping services throughout the province including the development of a provincial integrated geo-spatial infrastructure.

Functions also include policy development, the delivery of the Cottage Lot Initiative and overseeing Crown land transactions administered through the Crown Land and Property SOA on behalf of the Department.

Crown Lands Operations

Cottage Lot Program

- The Cottage Lot Program area achieved its initial objective of creating 1,000 new cottage lots in 2006. On June 21, 2007 the Minister of Conservation announced the Cottage Lot Program would develop an additional 1,000 cottage lots.

- New cottage lot development enhances the quality of life for Manitobans by providing opportunities to enjoy Manitoba's natural beauty and cottage life, and provides economic benefits to communities and municipalities. Benefits are derived from the initial construction of the infrastructure, as well as from cottage construction and ongoing local spending and tax contributions.

- Subdivision proposals go through extensive planning, review and approval processes to determine suitability of the sites before development begins. These processes ensure high standards are followed with respect to environmental, natural resource, sewage and waste disposal, servicing and other interests.

- The Cottage Lot Program Information is available on the Conservation web site at http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/cottaging

Key Results Achieved:

- The engineering, design and planning processes were completed for a joint cottage lot development by Conservation and Fisher River Cree Nation, and conditional subdivision approval received.
- Engineering, design and planning processes continued for a joint cottage lot development with Black River First Nation.
- The branch continued to identify sites and assess their potential for cottage lot development.
- An inventory of cottage lots to be made available on a first come first serve basis was compiled and a review of the lot prices undertaken by appraisers.

Crown Land and Treaty Land Entitlement Programs

Crown Land Programs

- The section is responsible for Crown land planning, policy and program development with respect to non-agricultural Crown lands and wild rice. Programs include Crown land sales, exchanges, leases, permits, licences of occupation and easements to accommodate a wide range of land uses.
- Other key functions of the section include programs involving Crown land transactions with the federal government such as transfer of water lots and uplands for public wharves and harbours, leasing or transfer of lands for navigational beacon sites, environmental monitoring sites, and other federal public works.
- The section leads or participates in Crown consultation with First Nations and other Aboriginal communities regarding proposed Crown land uses or dispositions.

- The section provides instructions to the Crown Lands and Property Agency with respect to approval, conditional approval, or disapproval of Crown land applications processed by the Agency on behalf of Conservation.
- The section is responsible for policy recommendations or decisions regarding various Crown land issues impacted by other legislation or public interests.
- The section is also responsible for administering the grants-in-lieu of taxes program, through which municipalities are provided grants by the department for Crown land located within their municipalities that are not otherwise exempt from taxation.

Treaty Land Entitlement and Other Aboriginal Land Programs

- The Crown Land and Treaty Land Entitlement Programs area is responsible for the preparation of various legal documents related to the fulfilment of Treaty Land Entitlement, other Aboriginal Land Claim settlement agreements and federal land transactions. These include issuance of Exclusive Use/Land Use Permits, Cabinet Submissions, Federal Transfers/Reversions of Administration and Control, Real Property Applications, Dissolving of Titles, and Fee Simple Transfers as specified in the respective settlement agreement.

- The section is responsible for administration of Crown land programs and settlement agreements involving First Nations and Aboriginal communities and plays a key role in the negotiation and implementation of various agreements and programs involving Crown land. To ensure all issues are addressed in accordance with the various settlement agreements, provincial departments and agencies are required to comment on the selections. The section then formulates a provincial position on each site in accordance with the appropriate agreement provisions and participates in discussions with Canada and the First Nations to resolve the conditions under which the lands would be available for transfer.

- Crown land related technical support and advisory services are provided to other branches and departments that are responsible for negotiation and delivery of agreements, claims and programs involving First Nations. Services include research, mapping, record keeping, technical advice and services related to the administrative land transfer requirements, agreements and any interests, encumbrances or legislative limitations that may affect availability of selected Crown lands.

Key results achieved:

- Following execution of the Peguis First Nation Treaty Land Entitlement by Canada on April 29, 2008 the Branch prepared for the implementation of the agreement by conducting informational meetings with Departmental staff and providing the First Nation with updates to their preliminary Crown land Selections.

- The Crown Land and Treaty Land Entitlement Programs area was actively involved in pursuing steps necessary to advance Selections affected by water power development and portages concerning approximately 100,000 acres of Treaty Land Entitlement Crown land selections that are not approved for survey or finalized for transfer, with a goal to expedite the process.

- Continued participation at the Third Party Interest workshop as hosted by the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee for all Entitlement First Nations. A presentation of the provincial processes and procedures relating to third-party interests was provided to answer questions and assist in reducing time frames involved in the resolution of these matters.

- Manitoba has continued to fulfill its goal of expediting the transfer of lands under TLE agreements immediately upon receipt of a request from Canada to do so. The ability for Manitoba to meet this goal is directly tied to the number of acres that have been surveyed by Canada and approved for transfer by the parties.

- 3,440 acres of residual Crown interests (such as mines and minerals) were transferred by Manitoba to Canada between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009. The transfers relate to properties that were acquired by First Nations that have the ability to purchase other land for TLE purposes under their respective agreements. The total residual Crown interest transferred up to March 31, 2009 is approx. 17,350 acres.

- 27,051 acres of Crown land were transferred by Manitoba to Canada between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009

- Table LA.1 provides a summary of Crown land amounts that have been selected and are pending survey or have been transferred to Canada by Manitoba for Treaty Land Entitlement purposes up to March 31, 2009.

Table LA.1

Treaty Land Entitlement – Crown Land Amounts

First Nations with Treaty Entitlement Agreements*	Crown Land Entitlement Acres	Total Selected Acres	Available for Transfer Pending Survey	Transferred to Canada by Manitoba
Barren Lands	66,420	28,098		
Brokenhead	4,344	4,314		672
Buffalo Point	3,432	2,647		2,370
Bunibonibee	35,434	35,354	6,450	25,026
Garden Hill	45,339	53,104		43,530
God's Lake	42,600	41,071	771	15,516
Manto Sipi	8,725	9,965	1,212	4,284
Mathias Colomb	217,364	196,840	90,955	82,574
Nisichawayasihk	61,761	72,899	4,533	25,894
Northlands	94,084	57,317	7,512	
Norway House	104,784	106,976		45,641
Opaskwayak	47,658	47,955	21,607	10,558
Peguis	55,038	17,540		
Red Sucker Lake	9,487	9,585		9,585
Rolling River	2,356	2,351		2,351
Sapotaweyak	108,134	112,764		99,701
St. Theresa Point	34,908	35,185		35,185
War Lake	7,156	6,565		480
Wassagamach	12,493	12,511		12,511
Wuskwi Sipihk	44,168	45,328		25,190
	1,005,685	898,369	133,040	441,068

* The following Entitlement First Nations have not signed individual Treaty Entitlement Agreements: Fox Lake, Marcel Colomb, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin, Sayisi Dene, Shamattawa and York Factory.

Remote Sensing and Land Mapping Services (Geomatics)

The geomatics area is comprised of four distinct sections; Remote Sensing Program, Cadastral Mapping Program, Topographical Mapping Program and the Geographical Names Program. All areas are heavily involved in GIS applications and geo-spatial analysis. The mandate is to develop and implement a provincial integrated geo-spatial infrastructure by co-operating with all public sector agencies, avoid duplication of data and promote data sharing within these agencies.

Remote Sensing

- The Remote Sensing section provides earth observation services and related geo-spatial information from a range of air-craft and space-craft platforms to derive insight, evaluation and assessment of the natural and physical resources of Manitoba.
- This information helps to support natural resource management and environmental monitoring activities within the Department and other Government of Manitoba agencies.
- The Manitoba Remote Sensing Centre (MRSC), in partnership with Canadian Forest Service, delineated and mapped a sampling of the deforestation events that have occurred throughout Manitoba using Landsat satellite imagery spanning several years. The result is a key element for reporting to Environment Canada, the agency responsible for co-coordinating National Carbon Budget Data to meet reporting commitments.

Key results achieved:

- Project involvement includes the usage of NOAA/AVHRR satellite data between April 1 and Oct. 30 for the Canadian World Crop monitoring program. The GeoComp satellite image produces daily and weekly composites detecting change "happenings" for 1) Global climate change and 2) Parks Canada program.
- Work is continuing in partnership with PFRA and Manitoba Habitat and Heritage to re-evaluate the Land Use/Land Cover changes that have occurred since 2000. Seventeen classifications are being analyzed.
- As part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol and others., the Pacific Forest Service and MRCS agreed to evaluate the deforestation that has taken place between 2000 and 2007 using Landsat 7 and ancillary data. Work is underway on a test project using SPOT imagery on riparian features within a 300 metre buffer zone around all hydro graphic features.

Cadastral Mapping Section

- The Cadastral Mapping Section is responsible for the development and maintenance of a province- wide digital cadastral parcel infrastructure based on land parcels shown on registered plans of survey. The topologically structured data is used extensively throughout government, by provincial utilities and by general Manitoba GIS community at-large to meet land referencing, planning and decision making needs.

Key results achieved:

- Over the past year 12,440 parcels have been computed bringing the total number of parcels into the system to well over 600,000 province wide. The primary focused area has been around the Capital Region area based on the municipalities that were affected by the "Flood of the Century." As well parcel mapping was completed for fourteen full townships province wide including the rural municipality of Franklin and DeSalaberry disease program.
- The Section created conceptual cottage lot subdivision designs for 10 sites for the Cottage Lot Program.
- The Section continued to dedicate its efforts to develop a seamless digital Manitoba land referenced grid which includes a fully topologically structured parcel based approximation of the Dominion Land Survey township/range quarter section system in southern Manitoba.

Topographic Mapping

- The Topographic Mapping Section is responsible for topographic information and is designed to help support, evaluate and manage Manitoba's resources.

Key results achieved:

- The provincial 1:20,000 mapping program is now complete for all of southern Manitoba. This data set includes seven geo-referenced layers of information and is available in both .dxf and .shp formats. Updating of the various layers is being compiled using the new 1:40,000 orthophotograpy. Compilation and production of 100, 1:4000 hard copy maps of Cross Lake I.R for Northern Flood Agreement are now complete. Severance lines were determined from contour information. 95 Treaty Land Entitlement parcels are also being compiled over the next two years. Once again, easement information will be determined from contour information.

- The Topographic mapping section is also involved in partnership with NRCan for the updating of the 1:50,000 NTDB using Landsat 7 imagery. Another agreement with the federal government calls for the updating of the National Road Network and the inclusion of civic addressing in year two. Much of the updated information is collected using new cadastral information and imagery from all sources as a backdrop.

- The demand for high-quality resource photography has lead to the provincial five year ortho-photography refresh program at a scale of 1:40,000 in both b/w and colour. The area to be covered is +/- 178,000 km^2 and has a total cost of $1.2 million. Seven departments as well as two private groups have committed dollars to the program. There are continued negotiations with other firms to help us achieve our total goal. Imagery will be made available to all departments via the Manitoba Land Initiative Web Site and by USB hard drives to the Private firms for their immediate usage. Imagery will be in five kilometres tiles and have a 1 metre pixel resolution.

- In partnership with the department's forestry branch, compilation of 220-10km sq. tiles of base feature extraction for the Highrock forest area including "Truck Haul" and "Rail Haul" are being compiled for forest inventory management.

Manitoba Geographical Names Program

The Manitoba Geographical Names Program (on behalf of the Minister of Conservation) provides a provincial geographic name authority for the enhancement, maintenance and protection of Manitoba's nomenclature. This is accomplished through the development and implementations of policies and procedures, the establishment and monitoring of toponymic quality control in government documents, the research for and processing of decisions on new and established names and ongoing liaison with the Geographical Names Board of Canada.

The service relates to the dissemination of geographical name information to all Manitobans (including internal government departments and agencies) regarding the correct spelling, usage, and origin of names provides a proactive and vital toponymic quality control service for provincial maps, signs, and other documentation within Manitoba.

Key results achieved:

- Maintained liaison and a collaborative association with the Geographical Names Board of Canada:
  - Ensured the effective maintenance and distribution of name decisions and revisions of principles and procedures
  - Ensured provincial interests and issues are identified, evaluated, and considered in provincial, federal, and international decisions
  - Maintained active participation on national committees that focused on local, regional and national toponymic and cartographic issues.

- Enhanced stakeholders' (including Manitoba Conservation) awareness and utilization of Manitoba toponyms through active collaboration including the provision of digital toponymic data via multiple formats including new digital data formats (KML)

- Enhanced service to Manitoba's francophone community by completing and distributing the Bilingual Glossary of Manitoba Geographical Names.
- Completed the distribution of Geographical Names of Manitoba to all K-12 schools within Manitoba to promote the heritage and history of our province while providing a unique local resource reference.
- Maintained contact with First Nations people to ensure First Nations heritage and history are respected and recorded in Manitoba's toponyms.
- Maintained and enhanced the commemorative names project through various media events and new displays co-developed with organizations such as the Manitoba Museum and the Royal Canadian Artillery Museum.
- Enhanced the MGNP archives through the continued development and coordination of existing records as well as beginning to digitally archive the thousands of existing paper-only records.

Table LA.3

12.4(h) Lands and Geomatics

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,503	24.00	1,483	20	
Other Expenditures	3,398		3,952	(554)	1.
Recoveries from Other Appropriations	0		(24)	24	
Total 12.4(h)	**4,901**	**24.00**	**5,411**	**(510)**	

1. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to fewer cottages completed to lock up stage and lower lot development costs.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The Division's administration manages and facilitates development by the branches of legislation, policies, plans, licenses and programs to sustainably manage natural resources and the environment.

Administration responsibilities include:

Providing leadership to the Directors in the Division;
Ensuring that Division responsibilities are executed in an effective, efficient manner;
Recruiting Directors when necessary;
Representing the division on the Department's executive;
Representing the Department on boards and commissions;
Ensuring effective budgetary management; and
Communicating executive policy direction to the Division.

Environmental Stewardship Division comprised:

Sustainable Resource and Policy Management
Corporate Crown Land Policy
Environmental Assessment and Licensing
Aboriginal Relations
Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin
Protected Areas
Pollution Prevention
Air Quality Management

Table ES.1
12.5(a) Divisional Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	183	2.00	186	(3)	
Other Expenditures	33		61	(28)	
Total 12.5(a)	**216**	**2.00**	**247**	**(31)**	

Sustainable Resource and Policy Management

The Branch coordinates and integrates departmental policy, natural resource allocation, Crown land use planning, and legislative development and interpretation, in accordance with the principles and guidelines of sustainable development. The Branch is responsible for the administration of *The Sustainable Development Act, The Resource Tourism Operators Act* and the Endangered Species and Special Conservation Fund. The Branch assists the development of effective departmental policies and programming, establishes departmental positions with respect to Crown land dispositions and various development proposals, provides planning and policy assistance to local planning authorities, administers licensing of resource-based tourism facilities, coordinates and develops departmental legislation and represents the department on issues related to internal and international trade agreements, as well as national forums for governmental cooperation.

Key Results Achieved:

- The Branch provided a strategic and systematic approach for the Department to work with other governments on environment and natural resource issues, and contributed to a strong role and voice in national discussions on environmental protection in Canada.

- The Branch provided secretariat support to the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development, its task groups and committees. Chaired by the Minister of Conservation, the Round Table is a 26 member advisory body to the provincial government, which provides advice and support to decision makers. In 2008, the Round Table launched the annual Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Awards to honour Manitobans who embrace the spirit and principles of sustainable development. Along with providing logistical support to the Awards program and recognition event, the Branch also administered the Sustainable Development Scholarship Program for post-secondary students.

- The Branch provided planning and policy analysis support to the Crown Lands Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee. The Branch, in conjunction with regional Bloc Planning Committees, maintained and administered a system of operational land use coding on Crown land, and prepared Crown Land Plans for Southern Manitoba. The Branch also administered the Committee's system for the review of Crown land disposition denial decisions and maintained the committee's policy and procedures manual.

- The Branch co-chaired a national working group on the development of improved environmental assessment practices across Canada through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment forum.

- The Branch coordinated the review and established departmental positions with respect to all proposed Crown land dispositions, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation highway projects, developments and aggregate exploration programs, Manitoba Science, Technology, Energy and Mines oil and gas lease programs, oil battery development and various other dispositions and projects and Manitoba Water Stewardship integrated watershed management plans and other technical requests.

- The Branch assisted municipalities and Planning Districts in the preparation of development plans and zoning by-laws by coordinating preparation of departmental advice and information on planning, management and use of natural resources, and responding to requests for studies, maps, and statistical compilations required to properly allocate resources.

- The Branch provided secretariat support to the Licensing Advisory Committee (LAC) under *The Resource Tourism Operators Act*. The Committee, comprising Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and Manitoba Water Stewardship, makes recommendations to the Administrator of Resource Tourism on the licensing of outfitters and the permitting of their associated facilities for the purposes of hunting, fishing and ecotourism activities. The required annual lodge and outfitter licenses and/or permits were then issued. The Branch also served as secretariat to the Resource Tourism Appeals Committee, which provides an appeal mechanism for operators wishing to appeal a decision of the Administrator of Resource Tourism.

- The Branch administered the Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund. This Fund provides support to non-profit community-based organizations to undertake projects that will enhance the natural resources of the province. It also encourages organizations to develop local projects that foster better understanding of natural resources issues and the environment. All projects must meet provincial and federal regulatory requirements.

Key Program Outputs:

Legislation

Manitoba Conservation has administrative responsibility for 25 statutes and 97 regulations.

The following legislative and regulatory activity within Manitoba Conservation's administrative mandate occurred during the reporting period:

- *The Environment Amendment Act* (Permanent Ban on Building or Expanding Hog Facilities) received royal assent on October 9, 2008 and amended *The Environment Act*.
- Drafting instructions were prepared for a Bill amending *the Environment Act* to strengthen the provisions to address pollution and to enhance the environmental assessment and licensing process.
- Drafting instructions were prepared for a Bill to enable the planning and protection of traditional areas.
- The New Duff Roblin Park Reserve Regulation (99/2008) under *The Provincial Park Act* was repealed and registered on June 13, 2008.
- The Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation (195/2008) under *The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act* was registered on December 22, 2008.
- Twenty-four amending regulations were registered during the reporting period, amending nineteen existing regulations including:
    - an amendment to the Provincial Snowmobile Trail Regulation (145/2008) under *The Crown Lands Act.*
    - an amendment to the Ecological Reserves Designation Regulation (62/2009) under *The Ecological Reserves Act.*
    - an amendment to the Polar Bear Protection Regulation (150/2008) under *The Polar Bear Protection Act.*
    - an amendment to the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation (133/2008) under *The Environment Act.*
    - an amendment to the Designation of Provincial Forests Regulation (94/2008), and an amendment to the Forest Use and Management Regulation (57/2009) under *The Forest Act.*
    - an amendment to the Park Fees Regulation (4/2009), an amendment to the Provincial Parks Designation Regulation (98/2008), three amendments to the Park Reserves Designation Regulation (93/2008, 97/2008, 144/200) under *The Provincial Parks Act.*
    - an amendment to each of the Wildlife Fees and Royalties Regulation (57/2009), the Vehicle Use in Hunting Regulation (43/2009), the Trapping of Wild Animals Regulation (125/2008), the Designation of Wild Animals Regulation (41/2009), the Miscellaneous Licenses and Permits Regulation (42/2009), the Hunting Guides Regulation (53/2009), the Allocation of Hunting Licenses Regulation (136/2008), the General Hunting Regulation (54/2009), two amendments to Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits Regulation (137/2008, 55/2009), and three amendments to the Designation of Wildlife Lands Regulation (122/2008, 63/2009, 64/2009) under *The Wildlife Act.*

Intergovernmental Affairs and Strategic Policy

- Support was provided to the Minister and Deputy Minister in their official activities representing Manitoba in the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment forum (CCME).

- The Branch worked cooperatively with other Canadian jurisdictions and the CCME Secretariat to coordinate and advance environmental management issues across Canada, including leading the development of improved environmental assessment practices across Canada, and helping to achieve a national wastewater strategy.

- Support was provided to the Minister as a member of the Governmental Committee for Canada's representation on the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

- The Branch participated as Manitoba's representative on the following intergovernmental committees:
  - North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (Canada Implementation Working Committee and Canada Implementation Senior Officials Committee), and
  - CCME committees, including the Environmental Protection and Planning Committee and as co-chair of the Environmental Assessment Committee, and the Water Agenda Development Committee.

- The Branch represented the department in trade matters related to the Agreement on Internal Trade, NAFTA and GATT/WTO agreements, including representing the department in development and implementation of the Processing of Natural Resources chapter of the Agreement on Internal Trade, coordinating activities associated with implementation of NAFTA, monitoring trade developments in resource issues, and liaising with other departments and jurisdictions on trade matters involving resources.

- The Branch led, on behalf of the department and government, the development of an annual work plan with the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

- The Branch provided support and liaison on the government's climate change, water stewardship and Green Manitoba activities.

Sustainable Development Implementation

- The Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development met three times during the fiscal year, as required under *The Sustainable Development Act*. The Branch, as Secretariat, organized meetings of the Round Table, its task groups and committees and also coordinated the preparation of the 2007/08 Manitoba Round Table annual report.

- The Manitoba Round Table awarded Sustainable Development Scholarships to two students in Manitoba – one for graduate research on the impact of genetically modified canola on the environment and rural livelihoods, the other for undergraduate studies and personal efforts that reflect a commitment to the principles of sustainable development.

- The Branch continued to be the point of contact for facilitating the implementation of Sustainable Development across government and demonstrating leadership.

- The Branch led a comprehensive interdepartmental working group that was formed to provide guidance and assistance in the development of the 2009 Provincial Sustainability Report for Manitoba, for public release in 2009.

Crown Lands Policy and Planning

- The Branch prepared 25 Crown land sale, lease, and permit review reports for the consideration of the Crown Lands Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee. The 2008 *Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans* report was published and distributed. Approximately 33,000 recommended Crown land use classification code changes to Crown land plans were tabled with the Committee for the 2009 report. Also presented to the Committee were submissions for revised timber harvesting policies on Crown land, boundary adjustments between Bloc Planning Committees 2/3 and 7 and proposed changes to Crown land sale rejection reason # 26 – forestry.

- The Branch continued to provide secretariat support to Bloc Panning Committee # 2/3.

- Between August 2008 and March 31st 2009 the Branch coordinated the review and developed departmental positions with respect to 178 proposed Crown land dispositions, i.e., purchase, lease permit, license of occupation, reservation, easement and assignment applications.

- Advice and support were provided to the Protected Areas Initiative and related activities, including discussions and development of draft agreements with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives with respect to agriculturally coded Crown lands, and with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada regarding Crown lands in community pastures.

- A departmental review of the issues, policy and legislation with respect to All Terrain Vehicle use on Crown land was continued by the Branch.

- The Branch also continued to build the Crown land use classification GIS database for southern Manitoba. The database is about 99% complete.

Municipal and First Nation Land Planning and Other Department Projects

- The Branch coordinated the review and prepared departmental positions for :
    - 463 proposed land subdivisions (Red River Region only);
    - 138 proposed municipal zoning by-laws and amendments;
    - 88 proposed development plans and amendments, and
    - 38 other proposed municipal land related issues.

- The latest revision of the Provincial Land Use Policies for which Manitoba Conservation is the lead department was coordinated.

- The interdepartmental review of the Asatiwisipe Aki Management Plan of the Poplar River First Nation was coordinated.

- The Branch coordinated the review and prepared departmental positions for:
    - 9 highway developments and aggregate exploration programs
    - 11 oil and gas sale tenders and oil battery developments

- The Branch responded to 62 *Environment Act* proposals.

Licensing Advisory Committee

- The Licensing Advisory Committee held six regularly scheduled and three additional meetings. A total of 207 applications were reviewed and recommendations developed for consideration of the Administrator of Resource Tourism.
- Approximately 1,400 annual licenses and/or permits were issued to lodge operators and outfitters.
- One appeal hearing was conducted by the Resource Tourism Appeals Committee.

- Client services on a direct basis were continued, providing advice and information on the application process and outfitter requirements.
- Policy advice and support was provided to the Advisory Committee and the Resource Tourism Appeals Committee on a number of non-compliance and enforcement issues.

Special Conservation Fund

- The Fund granted $193,341 to 10 applicants during the fiscal year.

Table SR.1
12.5(b) Sustainable Resource and Policy Management

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Estimate 2008/09		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	977	16.00	1,044	(67)	
Other Expenditures	160		235	(75)	
Grant Assistance	138		145	(7)	
Total 12.5(b)	**1,275**	**16.00**	**1,424**	**(149)**	

Corporate Crown Land Policy

Reporting to the Lands Committee of Deputy Ministers, Corporate Crown Land Policy provides services and support regarding government–wide Crown land policies and practices to ensure effective horizontal governance.

Key Results Achieved

Various recommendations for Government consideration were developed on Crown land policy-related matters such as oversight structures in support of the coordination of Aboriginal consultations by government departments, public access to leased Crown land and land pricing policies.

Methods of renting out departmental assigned lands for commercial purposes including wayside parks as well as Provincial Park Lands leased for agricultural purposes were amended to enhance the open, fair and transparent disposition of Crown land.

Changes to legislation were developed to streamline the approval process for certain types of Crown land dispositions including lesser value Crown land, trust lands held on behalf of rural municipalities, as well as employees acquiring an interest in Crown land.

Corporate Crown Land Policy led various reviews and prepared findings concerning Crown land administration matters including circulation of proposed Crown Land dispositions to First Nation communities, information disclosure and privacy matters for Crown land applications, etc.

Secretariat support and policy analysis services were provided to the Lands Committee of Deputy Ministers. The Committee was established as part of the process for the Crown Lands and Property Agency to scrutinize all Crown land transactions, review related policies and make recommendations on the disposition of land. Eight departments with an interest in Crown land are represented on this Committee.

Changes were introduced to expand the mandate of the Crown Lands Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee, as chaired by Corporate Crown Lands Policy, to include not only the review of decisions on denied Crown land sale applications but for denied applications to purchase a right or interest in Crown land.

Key Program Outputs

Review and analysis of over 40 proposed sales, transfers and exchanges of Crown land were completed for consideration by the Lands Committee of Deputy Ministers prior to seeking Cabinet or Ministerial approvals.

As Chair of the Crown Lands Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee, responded to 45 requests for review of denied applications for Crown land.

Table CLP.1

12.5(c) Corporate Crown Land Policy

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Estimate 2008/09		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	169	3.00	260	(91)	
Other Expenditures	12		28	(16)	
Total 12.5(c)	**181**	**3.00**	**288**	**(107)**	

Environmental Assessment and Licensing

The Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch is responsible to ensure that potential adverse environmental and public health effects of new and existing developments are regulated through appropriate Licence and permit conditions. The Branch administers:

- the environmental assessment and licensing process for developments under *The Environment Act* and *The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act;*
- the certification process for operators under the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation; and
- the permitting of pesticide use under *The Pesticides Regulation.*

Key Results Achieved

Development in Manitoba was successfully regulated to ensure environmental sustainability for present and future Manitobans.

The Environmental Assessment and Licensing process remains effective, transparent, and continues to meet all legislative and regulatory requirements, including the opportunity for public involvement and participation. Innovative approaches to environmental protection have resulted in timely reviews and approvals for new developments. Manitoba's environmental assessment process compares favourably to other Canadian jurisdictions.

Land use, municipal, industrial, and hazardous waste sources of pollutants were managed through appropriate Licence specifications, limits, terms and conditions. Conditions ensured protection at all project stages (construction through to decommissioning). Compliance inspections and monitoring ensured that conditions were adhered to by licencees.

Adverse effects to the environment and public health from pesticide use were minimized through appropriate permit specifications, limits, terms and conditions. Complaints were followed up through compliance inspections and field visits. Liaison with the federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency ensured that only approved products were permitted and used in Manitoba. The branch commenced a review of government policy in the use of cosmetic pesticides. This work will continue into the next fiscal year.

The branch assisted members of the public with interpretation of *the Environmental Act, the Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act*, the Pesticide Permit and the Water and Wastewater Operator and Facilities Certification requirements.

The branch provided recommendations and policy advice to the Minister of Conservation on a wide variety of environmental and public health matters.

Key Program Outputs

Reviewed and approved over 100 development applications and/or Notices of Alteration under *The Environment Act*, and *The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act*, as well as over 250 permits under The Pesticide Regulation. The Branch led the environmental assessment process for these developments, including the direction of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) within the provincial and federal governments. The Branch ensured that all new developments were processed in accordance with *the Environment Act* and assured that the public had opportunity to participate and provide input to the proposals.

Conducted approximately 150 on-site inspections to ensure license conditions were being followed. Inspections were documented and tracked until any issues ere resolved. Liaison with regional field personnel ensured compliance and enforcement actions were done effectively.

Responded to enquiries regarding the need for environmental assessment and licensing for specific projects, and regarding the interpretation and implementation of licence and permit conditions.

The branch reviewed and approved numerous reports required under licenses, such as Environment Protection Plans for Construction, monitoring, and other environmental programs.

Participated in several public meetings as required. There were no hearings in 2008/09.

Table EA.1

Environmental Assessment and Licensing Activities
(ELU - Environmental Land Use; P - Pesticide; MIHW - Municipal, Industrial, and Hazardous Waste)

Activities	**ELU (#)**		**P (#)**		**MIHW (#)**		**Total**	
	08-09	**07-08**	**08-09**	**07-08**	**08-09**	**07-08**	**08-09**	**07-08**
The Environment Act								
Project proposals received	23	26	8	16	32	29	**63**	**71**
Project proposals processed	20	18	7	16	39	22	**66**	**56**
Project proposals refused	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	**0**
Minor alterations requests received	12	11	1	5	19	37	**32**	**53**
Minor alterations requests processed	9	8	1	5	18	35	**28**	**48**
Revision requests to *Licences* approved	5	3	1	0	5	9	**11**	**12**
Pre-Licensing activities processed	18	19	0	0	35	49	**53**	**68**
Highways pre-planning reviews	4	3	0	0	0	0	**4**	**3**
Infrastructure project reviews-Can/Man	15	12	0	0	0	0	**15**	**12**
Hydro Low Voltage reviews	0	3	0	0	0	0	**0**	**3**
Other Reviews. Licence not required	25	19	0	0	16	6	**41**	**25**
Site inspections, monitoring and enforcement	90	67	34	41	90	62	**214**	**170**
Pesticide Use Permits Issued	0	26	241	241	0	0	**241**	**241**
Post Seasonal Reports received/compiled	0	0	241	237	0	1	**241**	**238**
Public complaints investigated	4	5	8	9	16	19	**28**	**33**
Public meetings attended	3	2	0	1	1	1	**4**	**4**
Public Hearings attended	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	**0**
The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act								
Project proposals received					7	5	**7**	**5**
Project proposals processed					5	4	**5**	**4**
Minor alterations requests received					6	6	**6**	**6**
Minor alterations requests processed					6	5	**6**	**5**
Pre-Licensing activities					14	13	**14**	**13**
Site inspections, monitoring and enforcement					6	3	**6**	**3**
Public meetings attended					0	0	**0**	**0**
The Public Health Act								
Fumigation Permits issued			2	2			**2**	**2**
Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Regulation								
Certification Examination					559	442	**559**	**442**
Plant Classifications Issued					97	485	**97**	**485**
Operators Certificates Issued					292	338	**292**	**338**

Table EA.2

Suspensions or Variations under *The Environment Act* 2008/09

Section 18(2) of ***The Environment Act*** states:
"A suspension or variation granted pursuant to subsection (1) shall be recorded in the public registry and in the department's annual report." The following suspensions requests were approved by the Department of Conservation during the 2008/09 fiscal year:

Date	Location	Purpose
14.04.08	Town of Emerson Wastewater Lagoon	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity. Submission of E. A. proposal fall of 2009. has received infrastructure funding September 2009.
03-05.06.08	Stephenfield Prov. Park Wastewater Lagoon	Lower secondary cell in order to make necessary repairs to inlet pipe, normal discharge time is between September 15 and November 1.
06.06.08	Community of Semourville	Lack of Hydraulic Storage Capacity in secondary cell.
22.08.08	Camp Arnes Wastewater Lagoon	Lack of Hydraulic Storage Capacity in secondary cell.
02.09.08	Town of Gimli Wastewater Lagoon	Lack of Hydraulic Storage Capacity in secondary cell.
02.09.08	Town of Winnipeg Beach	Lack of Hydraulic Storage Capacity in secondary cell.
17.10.08	Petro Canada – Deacon's Corner	Discharge of waste water in excess of BOD, fecal coliform and total coliform limits after October 15.
27.10.08	Miltown Hutterite Colony Lagoon	Discharge of waste water in excess of BOD and fecal coliform limits
30.10.08	R.M. of Springfield Municipal Wastewater Lagoon	Discharge of waste water in excess of BOD, fecal coliform and total coliform limits after November 1.
05.11.08	Heartland Colony Wastewater Lagoon	Discharge of waste water after November 1.
14.11.08	R.M. of Springfield Municipal WW Lagoon	Discharge of waste water in excess of BOD, fecal coliform and total coliform limits after November 1.
20.01.09	Town of Emerson	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity. Submission of E. A. proposal fall of 2009 has received infrastructure funding September 2009.

Table EA.3

12.5(d) Environmental Assessment and Licensing

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,389	19.00	1,420	(31)	
Other Expenditures	202		277	(75)	
Total 12.5(d)	**1,591**	**19.00**	**1,697**	**(106)**	

Aboriginal Relations

The Branch was established to build the relationship between the Department and the Aboriginal people of Manitoba. It is necessary to maintain this level of commitment in order to meet the increasing requirements of the Aboriginal community and Manitoba Conservation.

In providing leadership and direction for the Department, the Branch participates in strategic planning processes, such as development of policies, legislation, and programs to ensure that Aboriginal and Treaty rights are recognized and respected. The Branch is accountable for the research, analysis, development, implementation and evaluation of new and existing resource programs. The Branch is also engaged in development of integrated resource policies, legislation relating to land use, co-management, resource allocation, environmental impacts, and sustainable development initiatives. As well as, facilitate communication between the various user interests and the Department

The Branch continues to play an instrumental role in developing a policy on consultation with First Nation/Métis/Aboriginal people. The branch has always maintained that the consultation policy will be reviewed with First Nations prior to being finalized. The Branch has also taken a lead role in facilitating dialogue between the Aboriginal community and the Department.

Key Results Achieved:

- Advocated that appropriate and meaningful Crown Consultation is undertaken with First Nation and Aboriginal communities when any government decision may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of a Treaty or Aboriginal right.
- Met with Aboriginal communities to identify respective concerns and issues, and assisted in developing action plans to resolve Aboriginal community issues.
- Created and fostered partnerships with Aboriginal leaders and communities that will build positive relationships in relations to program development, advocacy and capacity building.
- Provided direction for the Department and Aboriginal communities in natural resource management programs and issues.
- Provided educational information through varied media to the Department, Aboriginal, and non-Aboriginal communities.
- Participated in discussions to develop formal agreement for managing natural resources.
- Attended meetings and gatherings in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and with the various users of natural resources.
- Responded to inquiries from the Department, resource users, public and educational institutions.

Key Program Outputs:

- Participated as members of the Crown Consultation Teams and the Crown Consultation Steering Committees in Crown Consultation processes with those people whose Treaty and Aboriginal rights may be impacted by government decisions.
- Established a mutually beneficial partnership aimed at reconciling the Treaty relationship between the Crown and First nation peoples through the signing of the *Widokidadiwin: Partnership Agreement between the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba and Manitoba Conservation: November 19th, 2008.*
- Established and implemented the *Speakers Bureau Workshop Series* to provide a forum for Department staff to hear presentation on the current issues surrounding First Nation and Aboriginal people. The series is designed to provide an opportunity for Department staff to be informed and understand the history of the various issues.
- Participated in the implementation of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation Joint Resource Management Agreement and establishment of the Resource Management Board.
- Discussed with Aboriginal leaders, communities and individuals, the formation dialogue forums and communication processes between the Department and Manitoba Aboriginal communities.

- Continued to facilitate meetings and dialogue between licensed resource users and Aboriginal resource users.
- Updated and maintained the Aboriginal Relations Branch webpage for the Manitoba Conservation website.

Table AR.1

12.5(e) Aboriginal Relations

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	446	6.00	506	(60)	
Other Expenditures	175		186	(11)	
Northern Initiatives	77		250	(173)	1.
Total 12.5(e)	**698**	**6.00**	**942**	**(244)**	

1. Under expenditure in Northern Initiatives is due to fewer funding proposals.

Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin

The Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO) Planning Initiative is intended to ensure that future land, resource and development decisions address the environmental, social, health, cultural, and economic needs of First Nations, the public, local communities, and various stakeholders and interest groups in the area on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The WNO Planning Initiative is supported by a Secretariat.

Key Results Achieved:

The WNO Secretariat:

- provided administrative, planning and research support to its principal bodies, the WNO Council and the WNO Council of Chiefs;
- assisted the WNO Council of Chiefs Inc., which leads and manages the development of traditional area land use plans (TALUPs), and administers and disperses its funds; and
- facilitated work towards establishing several regional resource management boards (RRMBs) on the east side.

Key Program Outputs:

- An Interdepartmental Working Group continued to address the 100+ recommendations in the status report "Promises to Keep…" *Towards a* Broad Area Plan *for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg* on an on-going basis. About 97% of relevant recommendations are in process.
- Planning shifted from broad area to community-based land use planning on First Nation traditional territories. A draft Broad Area Vision Statement, as well as Broad Area Planning Principles based upon environmental sustainability, community development and equal participation in decisions, were prepared and presented to the WNO Council of Chiefs and Community Coordinators. It is intended that traditional area land use plans, once completed, will collectively comprise the Broad Area Plan for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.
- A Traditional Area Land Use Planning Workshop was held for community TALUP coordinators. Delivery of the workshop, in the form of presentations, handout materials and individual and group exercises, provided coordinators with knowledge, tools, and training, along with the sharing of experiences amongst the group. The workshop provided coordinators with:
    - a clear idea of the planning process and how to get started;
    - fundamental technical aspects and where to get information and maps;
    - techniques to engage the community and an understanding of the importance of community involvement in the planning process;
    - information on the benefits of using both Traditional Knowledge and Western Science and how to use both sources of knowledge in planning;
    - insight into how some communities have approached planning, what has worked for them and what has not; and
    - an action plan for approaching traditional area land use planning in their community.
- The WNO Council of Chiefs Inc. allocated an additional $592,821.12 of provincial funding for traditional area land use planning to the communities of Berens River, Black River, Bloodvein, Bunibonibee, Garden Hill, God's Lake, Hollow Water, Little Grand Rapids, Manto Sipi, Pauingassi, Poplar River, Red Sucker Lake, St Theresa Point and Wasagamack

The WNO Inc. and the Minister of Conservation agreed that a fund raising committee be established; that it involve two First Nation representatives and two representatives to be appointed by the Minister.

- A consulting firm was retained to further assist and advance communities in their traditional area land use planning work. The firm will:
    - assess the state of development of individual community TALUPs and provide recommendations for progress;
    - assess immediate and long-term community equipment needs for planning;
    - establish linkages through the WNO Secretariat, other government departments and other government branches, between communities and technical support mechanisms, resource information and inventories, as well as other planning processes underway and on-going on the east side;
    - train community coordinators in documenting and mapping traditional knowledge information (ie. through interviews with Elders, trappers and other community land users); and
    - establish a central GIS database to map and store all TK data, provincial natural resource data, consistent with input and management suitable for analysis and land use planning application.

- Progress continued on negotiations to establish new Regional Resource Management Boards (RRMBs) on the east side.

  The RRMB involving the communities of Bunibonibee, Manto Sipi and God's Lake First Nations will be known as the Kee-Ootinetan Kitaskiinaan and the RRMB involving the communities of Garden Hill, Red Sucker Lake, St. Theresa Point and Wasagamack First Nations will be known as the Paskonasheeng. In both cases, second DRAFT RRMB agreements have been forwarded to Provincial negotiators and a provincial legal review has been completed. After the First Nations complete their legal reviews, their negotiators will reconvene with their provincial counterparts and review any changes. Final drafts will be advanced to respective Chiefs and Councils and provincial Ministers once complete.

  The RRMB involving the communities of Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi, and Bloodvein First Nations will be known as the Wahbanong Nopemeing. A draft RRMB agreement has been reached and circulated within government and First Nation leadership for review and comments.

  The Chief of Hollow Water First Nation indicated they will be contacting the Chief of Black River to discuss a RRMB for their traditional territories.

  Shamattawa First Nation requested a resource management board for their traditional territory and the WNO Council of Chiefs agreed to offer them a seat on the WNO. If Shamattawa decides to participate in the WNO Initiative, they will become part of the Cree Regional Resource Management Area.

  Berens River First Nation has indicated that they will not participate in RRMB discussions pending discussions with the Province.

- A newsletter was prepared and distributed to communities in the planning area. Along with updates on Traditional Area Land Use Planning and Regional Resource Management Board initiatives, information included the $2.5 million Transfer Payment Agreement signed by the Government of Manitoba and the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin Council of Chiefs; background information on the WNO Planning Initiative; the Eastside Aboriginal Sustainable Tourism Inc., or East Inc., a new economic development initiative established to support the development and expansion of new and existing Aboriginal Tourism businesses on the east side of Lake Winnipeg; the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin Council of Chiefs Accord, signed between the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin First Nations and the Government of Manitoba to solidify the government-to-government relationship and reinforce the foundation for the most comprehensive traditional area land use planning in the country; and Pimachiowin Aki, the world heritage site project involving the provinces of Manitoba and Ontario, the First Nation communities and traditional territories of Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi, Poplar River and Pikangikum, and Atikaki and Woodland Caribou provincial parks. WNO Secretariat Contact information was also included. Work began on a second update.

  The WNO website (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wno/index.html) is updated on an on-going basis.

Table WA.1

12.5(f) Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Estimate 2008/09		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	799	0.00	1,075	(276)	
Total 12.5(f)	**799**	**0.00**	**1,075**	**(276)**	

1. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to reduced meeting and travel related costs for traditional land use planning and community consultations, and deferral of consultant costs to 2009/10.

Protected Areas Initiative

Description:

- The Protected Areas Initiative (PAI) contributes to long-term sustainable development by assembling a network of core protected areas designed to conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity across Manitoba. Protected areas consist of land, freshwater, or marine areas that are free from oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydroelectric development, logging, mining, and other activities that may significantly and adversely affect habitat. Protected lands can include national parks, ecological reserves, provincial parks and park reserves, wildlife management areas, provincial forests and privately owned conservation lands that meet the province's definition of protected.

- The goal of the PAI is to establish, for each of the 18 natural regions and sub-regions of the province, a network of protected areas containing an adequate and representative sample of the region's diverse landscapes. A geographic information system (GIS) is used to identify and evaluate potential areas, and track progress towards meeting this goal.

Key Results Achieved:

- Important work continued this year with the mining and forestry industries, First Nation and Northern Affairs communities, and environmental organizations regarding protected areas. Forty-two protected area proposals have been reviewed and finalized for external consultation in Natural Region 5c. The protected areas planning exercise for the Saskatchewan River Delta (Natural Region 5a) continued in 2008. Work continued this year to identify land owned by conservation agencies within agro-Manitoba that have the potential to become protected areas. To that end, a $400,000.00 grant was awarded to the Nature Conservancy of Canada in support of their "Campaign for Conservation". The province also signed a $7 million grant with Nature Conservancy of Canada in support of their Natural Areas Conservation Program, providing a first installment of $3 million in 2008/09. Over the next five years, NCC will acquire and preserve ecologically significant lands in eight regions of southern Manitoba. This includes environmental protection priorities such as the Pembina Valley and Tiger Hills Natural Region and Delta and Netley-Libau Marshes.

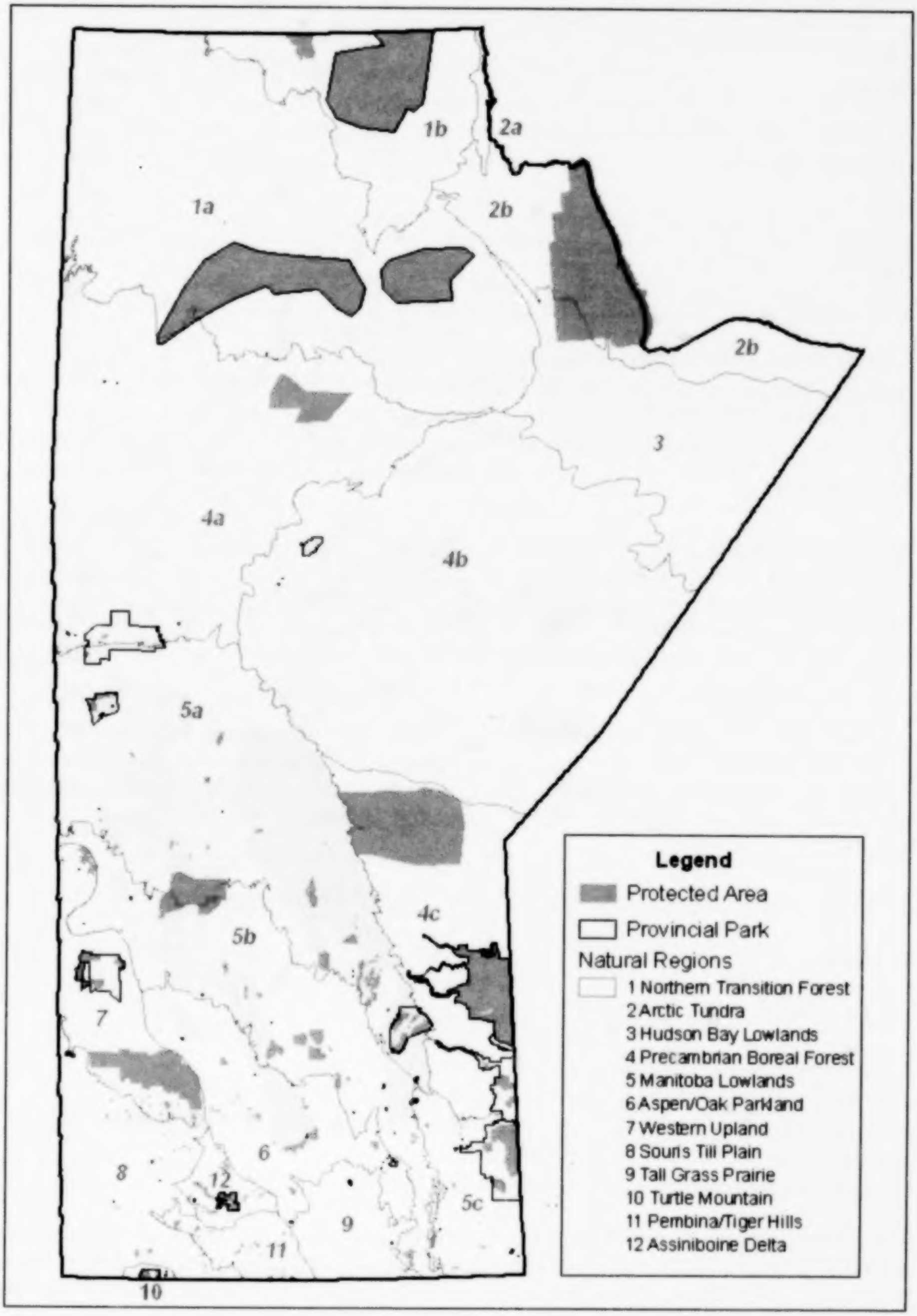
- The PAI continued to participate in the development of the national Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System (CARTS) schema (standardized dataset) as a component of the National Forest Information System (NFIS). This included applying the criteria in the *Canadian Guidebook for the Application of IUCN Protected Area Categories 2008* to Manitoba's protected areas dataset, standardizing it for the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and for addition to the CARTS online data sharing portal.

Key Program Outputs:

New Protected Areas	Area (hectares)	Protected Under
Duff Roblin Provincial Park (formerly a park reserve)	32	*The Provincial Parks Act*
Nature Conservancy of Canada Lands Addition	2,285	Memorandum of Agreement
Observation Point Wildlife Management Area	6,010	*The Wildlife Act*
Whitemouth Bog Ecological Reserve	5,020	*The Ecological Reserves Act*
Whitemouth Bog Wildlife Management Area	3,010	*The Wildlife Act*

- Currently, 5.4 million hectares (or 8.4 per cent of Manitoba) are protected. This includes two national parks, 22 ecological reserves, all or parts of 43 provincial parks and interim protected park reserves, all or parts of 48 wildlife management areas, parts of two provincial forests, and private lands owned by Ducks Unlimited of Canada, Nature Conservancy of Canada and Nature Manitoba (formerly Manitoba Naturalists Society).

Figure 7: Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas.


1a
1b
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2b
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3
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10
11
12
Legend
▨ Protected Area
☐ Provincial Park
Natural Regions
1 Northern Transition Forest
2 Arctic Tundra
3 Hudson Bay Lowlands
4 Precambrian Boreal Forest
5 Manitoba Lowlands
6 Aspen/Oak Parkland
7 Western Upland
8 Souris Till Plain
9 Tall Grass Prairie
10 Turtle Mountain
11 Pembina/Tiger Hills
12 Assiniboine Delta

Table PR.1

12.5(g) Protected Areas

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	265	4.00	280	(15)	
Other Expenditures	46		193	(147)	
Grant Assistance	3,660		530	3,130	1.
Total 12.5(g)	**3,971**	**4.00**	**1,003**	**2,968**	

1. Over expenditure in Grant Assistance is due to grant assistance to The Nature Conservancy of Canada in support of establishment of protected habitat corridors and to Pimachiowin Aki Corporation in support of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Nomination.

Pollution Prevention

Working with local governments, non-government organizations, business and industry associations and other agencies, the Branch promotes initiatives to foster efficient use of resources and best practices that avoids or minimizes pollution and waste, and supports these and other provincial initiatives through the management and administration of grant funding programs. The Branch develops policy, strategies, and legislation and regulations, and programs to reduce waste, prevent pollution and protect the stratospheric ozone layer.

The Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) Act and *The Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Act* are administered by the Branch. The Branch manages the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) established under Part 7 of *The Sustainable Development Act* and three of its broad allocation funding initiatives, namely the SDIF Open Category, Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund and the Environmental Youth Corps (EYC).

The annual report for Air Quality Management is separate from the main report for the Branch.

Key Results Achieved:

Waste Reduction and Prevention

The Branch continued to focus on programs that aim to:

- promote producer responsibility for post-consumer product management;
- encourage strategic public private sector partnerships to address environmental issues;
- reduce volume of waste generated and disposed; and
- improve waste management facility operations and planning.

The Branch worked with Parks and Wildlife staff to implement waste reduction and pollution prevention initiatives in provincial parks and campgrounds by supporting recycling activities in Birds Hill and Grand Beach Provincial Parks. In addition, a Bear Smart waste management system was initiated for Grand Beach Provincial Park, where the traditional waste collection bins are being replaced with a semi-automated bear-proof containment bin and collection system. A brochure entitled "Be Bear Smart with Your Garbage" and two feature signs to inform the public and cottage owners about the new system and to inform visitors about being Bear Smart in bear country were developed.

The Branch continued to work with Green Manitoba to finalize and implement new regulatory requirements under *The WRAP Act* to address priority waste streams as identified in Manitoba's Green and Growing Strategy. A new Tire Stewardship Program began operating in April 2008 and the *Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation* was passed in December 2008.

The new Regulation is based on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and makes the "stewards" of packaging and printed paper responsible for organizing and supporting a program to recycle those materials, and to reduce litter. Stewards are companies and people who sell or distribute packaging or printed materials in Manitoba.

Several industry associations have established Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM), and are developing a stewardship program plan. The Plan will be based on requirements outlined in the Guideline for Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship and Guideline for Plastic Bags, which accompany the Regulation. More information on the regulation and proposed plan is available at: www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention.

Regulated programs under *The WRAP Act* recycled 96,846 tonnes of material in 2008/09, including 10,161 tonnes of rubber from scrap tires, 70,338 tonnes of packaging and paper through municipal recycling programs and 16,347 tonnes of used oil products. The amount of material collected through these programs increased by 2,622 tonnes from the previous year.

Multi-Material Recycling

The Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation (MPSC) paid out $8,639,782 in Recycling Support Payments to Municipal recycling programs. Through these programs, 70,338 Tonnes of material was recycled, equivalent to 60 kgs per person. Further information on the MPSC is available at: www.mpsc.com.

Table PP.1

Residential Recycling Statistics

Eligible Material	Total Recycled 2007/08 (Kg's)	Total Recycled 2008/09 (Kg's)	Change from previous fiscal year	Average Kgs Recycled Per Manitoban (2006 pop. = 1,170,300)
Newspapers, Magazines, Flyers & Telephone Directories	36,460,354	37,443,826	983,472	32.00
Corrugated Cardboard	9,701,547	9,409,253	(292,294)	8.04
PET Plastics	2,403,418	2,516,160	112,742	2.15
4, 5, & 7 Rigid Plastics	1,091,802	1,188,132	96,330	1.02
Glass Containers	5,779,403	5,900,561	121,158	5.04
Boxboard	5,841,826	6,000,204	158,378	5.13
Aluminum Cans	1,035,668	1,100,119	64,451	0.94
Metal Cans	2,792,798	2,.922,020	129,222	2.50
Polycoat & Aseptic Containers	1,170,421	1,264,712	94,291	1.08
HDPE Containers	2,531,434	2,592,788	61,354	2.22
Total Eligible Materials	68,808,670	70,337,775	1,529,105	60.10

Tire Recycling

Tire Stewardship Manitoba (TSM), an industry association established by the Manitoba Motor Dealers' Association, the Retail Council of Canada, The Rubber Association of Canada and the Western Canada Tire Dealers assumed responsibility for tire stewardship in Manitoba on April 1, 2008. The new industry-led program is intended to ensure the environmental and economic sustainability of Manitoba's scrap tire recycling program. More information on TSM is available at: www.tirestewardshipmb.ca.

As part of the transition to the new industry-led program, the branch supported a clean-up of Off the Road Tires (OTRs) reducing the inventory to approximately 2,000 tires. In total 11,642 OTRs were collected and processed. Of the collected OTRs, 65% were used for tire derived fuel and 35% were used for tire derived aggregate. As a result of the OTR round up, incentives are being set for processors for further investment and product development for tire peel, mulch, crumbed and cut OTR tire products.

TSM reported on its operations for the nine months from April to December. A total of 10,161 tonnes of scrap tires were processed from 11,472 tonnes of new tires sold, for a nine-month diversion rate of 89%. This represents 8.39 kilograms of scrap tires diverted for every Manitoban.

Table PP.2

Products from Scrap Tires (April – December 2008)

Product	Tonnes	Percentage
Molded	193	2%
Crumb	1868	22%
Sidewalls	94	1%
Tire Derived Aggregate (TDA)	5276	60%
Blast / Temporary Road Mats	800	10%
Tire Derived Fuel (TDF)	1930	5%
TOTAL	**10,161**	**100%**

Used Oil Recycling

The *Used Oil, Oil Filters and Containers Stewardship Regulation* prohibits sale of lubricating oil products unless the vendor is registered and belongs to the stewardship program operated by Manitoba Association for Resource Recovery Corp. (MARRC). MARRC has 153 members, and as part of their membership agreement, vendors must pay Environmental Handling Charges based on product sales. In total, 53 Eco-Centres have been established in partnership with municipal governments and 22 privately operated depots collect used oil, filters and containers.

Oil recovery decreased slightly to 12.7 Million Litres, or 72% of the estimated amount recoverable. Filter recovery increased to 1.68 Million filters, or 85% of sales. For the second year, container recovery grew, from 221,000 kgs. in 2007/08 to 235,000 kgs. in 2008/09. Further information on MARRC is available at: www.usedoilrecycling.com.

Table PP.3

Used Oil Products Recycled/Collected, 2008

Material	Quantity	% Recovered
Oil	12.7 Million Litres	72%
Oil Filters	1.68 million	85%
Oil Containers	235,000 kilograms	27%

Pollution Prevention

- Branch staff represented Manitoba on the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Pollution Prevention Network and chaired the review panel for the Pollution Prevention Awards and Recognition Program. The CCME awards program recognizes companies and organizations showing leadership in pollution prevention, innovation and greenhouse gas reduction.

Additional details about the CCME Pollution Prevention Awards are available at: www.ccme.ca/initiatives/pollution.html.

Ozone Depleting Substances

Staff continued to participate on the Federal-Provincial Working Group (FPWG) on Ozone Depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternatives and met to consult on provincial and federal harmonization approaches for the continued implementation of the 2001 National *Action Plan (NAP) for the Environmental Control of Ozone Depleting Substances and Their Halocarbon Alternatives*. The FPWG is responsible for developing and implementing Canada's National Action Plan (NAP) which outlines how ODS will be controlled, reduced and eliminated in Canada. The NAP was created to meet national and international commitments under the Montreal Protocol. The latest NAP was approved by the CCME in 2001 and requires federal and provincial jurisdictions to implement measures to eliminate the release of ODS and alternatives into the environment.

Support continued for Refrigerant Management Canada (RMC), a national voluntary industry stewardship organization and its comprehensive halocarbon stewardship program for the proper management, collection and disposal of obsolete and surplus ODS. As of March 31, 2009 RMC accepted and processed 1,622,723 kgs of high and low pressure refrigerants and destroyed 1,462,824 kgs of refrigerant waste.

The Heating and Refrigeration Air Conditioning Institute (HRAI) tracks the number of chillers in Canada that continue to operate on CFC refrigerants and the annual rate of conversions and replacements. An estimated 267 chillers were converted or replaced during 2008 in Canada, representing a 3.2% decrease compared to 2007. Since 2000, a total of 2,875 chillers have been converted or replaced, bringing the rate of conversion/replacement from 47.5% (2007) to 52.4% (2008).

The Branch continued to administer the Annual Appointment Agreement between Manitoba Conservation and the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA). The Agreement allows MOPIA to undertake administrative tasks under the *Manitoba Ozone Depleting Substances and Other Halocarbon Regulation* (103/94) and continue its role as a service provider in issuing permits and collecting annual records and fees. In 2008, 5,021 trained service technicians' certificates and 360 secondary distributor permits were issued, and seven environmental awareness certification training sessions were held. Further information on MOPIA is available at www.mopia.ca

Staff continued to work in cooperation with MOPIA on the implementation of new regulatory amendments to encourage the orderly transition from CFCs and Halons to alternative substances and technologies. MOPIA held a series of industry information sessions throughout Manitoba and a review to revise and update Manitoba's environmental awareness training requirements for service technicians was completed.

Funding Programs

The Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF), administered by the Branch, supports innovative solutions to environmental issues. In addition to administering the overall Fund, the Branch managed the following targeted broad allocations:

- SDIF Open Category
- Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund
- Environmental Youth Corps (EYC)

Branch staff continued its membership with Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network (CEGN). The CEGN is a broad network of organizations that make environmental grants in Canada and provides a national format for information-sharing, collaboration and contributing towards expanding the scope and effectiveness of environmental grant-making in Canada.

Staff represented the department on the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative Management Committee. The initiative brings together several departments including Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Health, and Conservation and is intended to promote healthy food choices and support the development of local food sources in northern Manitoba.

An obsolete pesticide collection program for agriculture producers, greenhouses, nurseries and golf courses to safely dispose of obsolete and unwanted pesticides at ag-retail collection sites throughout the province was supported in partnership with CropLife Canada, Canadian Agri-Retailers Association, Manitoba Producers Association, Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives, and Manitoba Conservation. A total of 51,158 Kgs of obsolete and unwanted agricultural pesticides, including "legacy" pesticides was safely collected, disposed and destroyed via high temperature incineration. Program cost approximately $3.22 per Kg and was cost shared between Manitoba and Croplife Canada. In comparison, during 2003 and 2004 over 92,476 Kgs was collected over the two-year period.

In response to the Provincial Auditor General's report and recommendations on the SDIF, work continued in partnership with International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Sustainable Development Innovation Fund (SDIF) and its *Open Category* projects. Performance measures were developed to initiate a pilot phase to assess draft measures against completed projects.

Details on approved projects funded through the SDIF are provided in a separate *Annual Report* tabled in the Legislature. More information on the Fund is available at: www.susdev.gov.mb.ca.

Table PP.4
12.5(h) Pollution Prevention

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	317	5.00	307	10	
Other Expenditures	95		92	3	
Total 12.5(h)	**412**	**5.00**	**399**	**13**	

Air Quality Management

Air Quality Management's mandate is to monitor and safeguard the quality of Manitoba's air for the benefit of citizens today as well as for future generations. To achieve its mandate, the Section:

- Develops and reviews objectives and guidelines for air pollutants of concern;
- Monitors ambient (outdoor) air quality in urban areas and near selected industrial sources to measure adherence to objectives and guidelines;
- Undertakes special air quality projects;
- Provides scientific and technical support to the Department, other agencies and the public;
- Prepares reports and evaluates peer reports;
- Assists in the review and assessment of developments and provides comments for environmental licensing;
- Participates in the development and implementation of national strategies; and
- Assists in the delivery of other departmental programs.

Table AQ.1
Air Quality Activities

Activity	Number
National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) – number of urban stations operated	2
Monitoring industries with air emissions – number of stations operated	2[1]
Participation in regional/national air issues and strategies	5
Support to major Department activities	2
Proposals/Licences under The Environment Act and The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act; The Oil and Gas Act - Oil Well Battery Operating Permit Applications	
Reviewed	46
Comments provided	19
Requests for detailed technical air quality information (data, criteria, technical information, etc.) and presentations	as required

Key Results Achieved:

- The Section continued to monitor outdoor ambient air quality monitoring successfully, at the established provincial sites, audited the air quality monitoring activities of others, as required under regulatory provisions, and, when required, made recommendations for improvements. In collaboration with Environment Canada, a gaseous mercury analyzer was added to one of the northern monitoring sites. Air quality data statistics for 2007 were released publicly.
- Fulfilled provincial obligations as required by the existing federal/provincial Memorandum of Understanding for operation of the National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) program.
- Continued to provide support for the release of near real-time air quality information (air quality index information for downtown Winnipeg, supply of Manitoba data for the AIRNow web site, etc.).

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[1] One site operated with assistance from Regional Operations.

- Work continued on the transition to the near real-time Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) with expected implementation in the late spring of 2009. See http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/airquality/aq-health/ or more information.
- Played a lead role in the continuing Flin Flon area human health risk assessment for exposure to metals in soils, its joint governance with the Government of Saskatchewan and coordination of the Department's participation in the process and related activities.
- Undertook program development and provided related management oversight for implementation of phase 1 soil improvement activities at two priority parks/playgrounds in Flin Flon. A 2006 departmental study of metals and other elements in soils at publicly accessible areas of Flin Flon found that levels of arsenic, cadmium, copper, mercury and lead at a number of sites exceeded soil quality guidelines as established by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME). The soil improvement work is intended as a precautionary measure to protect young children using the parks.
- Undertook program development for the next phase of soil improvements at Flin Flon including overseeing of specifications for the work, addressing contract process matters, budget development and interaction with partners.
- Provided technical and policy support to a number of Departmental activities. These included:
    - Reviewing the Department's odour nuisance management strategy;
    - Providing input into the federal regulatory framework on air emissions (Clean Air Regulatory Agenda) and the national comprehensive air management system;
    - Management of releases from base metal smelters in Manitoba to protect local air quality;
    - On-going scientific and related monitoring activities to assess eco-system vulnerability to acidic deposition;
    - Review of air quality matters related to *Environment Act* proposals for Licensing.
    - Continued participation on the Department's core Emergency Response Team to assist in response to releases or potential releases, of contaminants that may be detrimental to the environment or public health.
- More information on air quality management in Manitoba is available at: www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/airquality

Table AQ.2

12.5(i) Air Quality Management

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Estimate 2008/09		Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	306	4.00	297	9	
Other Expenditures	63		67	(4)	
Total 12.5(i)	**369**	**4.00**	**364**	**5**	

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Institute promotes the concept of environmentally sustainable economic development and the integration of the principles and practices of sustainable development within and between the public, private and voluntary sectors on a national and international basis.

The Institute issues a separate Annual Report. Copies can be obtained from the Institute at 161 Portage Avenue East, 6th Floor, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0Y4. The Institute can be contacted at 204-958-7700.

Table IISD.1

12.6 International Institute for Sustainable Development

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	1,196	0.00	1,196	0	
Total 12.6	**1,196**	**0.00**	**1,196**	**0**	

MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

Equipment

Departmental programs were supported by purchasing equipment and paying for minor infrastructure. Funding was allocated for computer hardware, office renovations, and equipment.

Table IM.1
12.7(a) Equipment

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Estimate 2008/09		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	413		430	(17)	
Total 12.7(a)	**413**		**430**	**(17)**	

Critical Heritage Marshes

The Heritage Marsh Program incorporates marshes known to be of extraordinary importance to the well being of wildlife and people. Eight Heritage Marshes are formally recognized (Saskeram, Summerberry, Delta, Oak Hammock, Rat River, Grants Lake, Proven Lake, and Lidcliff), and an additional 19 have been identified as candidate marshes.

Support continued for research on the ecological health and future of Delta Marsh. Recognized locally and internationally as an important prairie wetland, the marsh ecosystem has undergone significant changes, in part due to relatively constant water levels brought on by the regulation of water levels on Lake Manitoba. Marshlands require a natural water regime that includes wet and drought cycles to maintain their biodiversity. Studies to examine the impacts of carp on marsh ecosystems and vegetation studies were carried out in partnership with the University of Manitoba and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

A broadly based technical committee was formed to study various means of addressing the management challenges affecting the Delta Marsh. It has made significant progress on designing structures to exclude adult carp while allowing smaller fish to come and go, as well as maintaining a free flow of water between Lake Manitoba and the marsh.

A research program in the Summerberry Heritage Marsh continued in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Delta Marsh Research Station (University of Manitoba). Studies by graduates students are underway to determine the reasons for a decline in muskrat numbers in the marsh and develop management strategies to better improve the productivity of the wetlands for a variety of wildlife.

A number of improvements were made in the Oak Hammock Marsh and Whitewater Lake WMAs. The North Mound area and a new site in the southeast corner of the marsh at Oak Hammock were developed in cooperation with the Watchable Wildlife Program. Islands were constructed that will serve as loafing bars for waterfowl and shorebirds, along with new access trails for birders. At Whitewater Lake, three new loafing bars for shorebirds were constructed adjacent to the existing boardwalk to enhance viewing opportunities.

The range of purple loosestrife, an introduced wetland species, continues to expand, threatening important marsh ecosystems. The Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project team is chaired by the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and includes Ducks Unlimited Canada and the City of Winnipeg. Objectives are to control purple loosestrife through research, management, and expansion of biological control programs.

Table IM.2
12.7(b) Critical Heritage Marshes

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	124		120	4	
Total 12.7(b)	**124**		**120**	**4**	

Park Facilities

Parks and Natural Areas branch endeavours to extend the life and capacity of provincial park infrastructure and enhance recreational opportunities through upgrading, improvement and development of park facilities. Environmental protection in provincial parks is enhanced through the installation and construction of appropriate facilities for the treatment of water and sewage, and the disposal of garbage. Campgrounds and other park areas are enhanced to meet park users' needs and promote attraction to users. Park facilities are upgraded through this program in conjunction with Capital Assets and the camping budgets.

Table IM.3
12.7(c) Park Facilities

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	2,045		2,369	(324)	
Total 12.7(c)	**2,045**		**2,369**	**(324)**	

1. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to projects deferred to 2009/10 as a result of construction delays, as well as other deferrals to 2009/10.

Cottaging and Camping Initiatives

As part of the Provincial Camping Initiative, improvements and infrastructure upgrades were made to various campgrounds throughout the Province.

Key Results Achieved under Camping Initiatives include:

- Landscaping of Betula Lake campground, Whiteshell Provincial Park after the severe windstorm of 2007.

- Road development at Camp Morton for yurt development.
- Campground office construction at Hnausa, Wellman and Rivers.
- Constructed accessible washroom at Nutimik Lake to be used in conjunction with accessible yurts.
- Completed campground electrification projects at Rivers, Hnausa, Turtle Mtn, Birds Hill and Falcon Lakeshore.
- Upgrade to Family Vacation Cabins at Hecla and Camp Morton and constructed two new cabins at Hecla.

Table IM.4

12.7(d) Cottaging and Camping Initiatives

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09 $(000)	Estimate 2008/09 FTE	Estimate 2008/09 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	754		750	4	
Total 12.7(d)	**754**		**750**	**4**	

Costs Related to Capital Assets

The Department expended the annual amortization costs of all completed assets based on the useful life of each asset. Assets purchased or constructed in 2008/09 were expended at one-half the annual amortization rate. The amortization expense also included the portion of corporate information technology projects attributable to the Department.

Table ACA.1
12.8 Costs Related to Capital Assets

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Estimate 2008/09		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
(a) Desktop Services					
(1) Amortization Expense - Transition	0		131	(131)	1.
(2) Enterprise Software Licenses	219		219	0	
(b) General Assets					
(1) Amortization Expense	1,300		1,282	18	
(2) Interest Expense					
(c) Infrastructure Assets	436		443	(7)	
(1) Amortization Expense	2,135		2,341	(206)	2.
(2) Interest Expense	2,229		2,092	137	
Total 12.8	**6,319**		**6,507**	**(188)**	

1. Lower amortization-transition expense is due to desktop assets that were fully amortized.
2. Lower infrastructure amortization expense is due to project deferrals as a result of delays in both environmental approval processes and construction estimates and tendering.

The in-year cost of acquiring capital assets or assets under construction is provided through Part B - Capital Investment for which amortization and interest expense is reflected as a departmental operating expense. Part B - Capital Investment is highlighted in the following section.

PART B – GENERAL ASSETS

B.12 Capital Investment - General Assets provides for the refurbishment and upgrade of facilities and the acquisition of machinery and equipment.

Facility upgrades were completed to the Bissett Helitac Airbase.

Machinery and equipment purchases included one Gator vehicle, two tractor/loaders, six industrial mowers, one five tonne truck, five snowmobiles, one truck mounted trash compactor (Bear Smart Program), four boat/motor and trailer combination units, two roadway graders, one thermal imaging camera, one design jet printer and one point of sale system.

Information Technology projects included procurement of Patchwork Forestry Software.

PART B – CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Infrastructure Assets

B.12b Capital Investment – Infrastructure provides for the refurbishment and upgrade of facilities and the acquisition of machinery and equipment, which are utilized by the general public in their enjoyment of Manitoba's outdoors.

Infrastructure Asset purchases and construction activities included:

- Designed and started construction for a major campground expansion at Wellman Lake in Duck Mountain Provincial Park
- Initiated redevelopment of wastewater treatment facilities for West Hawk and Grindstone Lagoons.
- Continued enhanced flood protection at Spruce Woods through road construction.
- Developed yurts at Camp Morton and Stephenfield campgrounds.
- Completed designs for washroom/shower buildings at Childs Lake, Wellman Lake, Grand Beach and Birds Hill with construction being planned for the following year.
- Completed preliminary design and cost estimate for the relocation of the Duff Roblin Provincial Park to the Floodway Inlet Structure with construction to be completed over the next two fiscal years.
- Completed campground upgrades and redevelopments at West Hawk and Toniata in the Whiteshell Provincial Park.
- Initiated the design, public consultation and cost estimate for a new campground at Winnipeg Beach with construction forecast over the next two fiscal years.
- New playgrounds structures were purchased and have or will be installed at Birds Hill, Camp Morton, Grand Beach, Clearwater Lake, Bakers Narrows, Wekusko Falls, Paint Lake, Grass River, Rivers, Wellman Lake, Childs Lake, Rainbow Beach, Brereton Lake, Otter Falls and St. Malo.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATION

Under *The Sustainable Development Act*, each department is required to integrate into its annual reporting process information about progress made in incorporating sustainable development into its activities. The section below provides just a few examples of the many activities the Department has undertaken to incorporate or apply the Principles and Guidelines of Sustainable Development into its everyday operations and activities. Please note that a particular example may exemplify more than one principle and/or guideline.

Principles of Sustainable Development

1. Integration of Environmental, Social, Health and Economic Decisions

To meet the intent of Principle # 1, the Department ensures:

a) its economic decisions and activities adequately reflect environmental, human health and social effects; and

b) its environmental and health decisions, activities and initiatives adequately take into account economic, human health and social consequences.

Examples:

- The Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO) Planning Initiative is intended to ensure that future land, resource and development decisions address the environmental, social, health, cultural, and economic needs of First Nations, the public, local communities, and various stakeholders and interest groups in the area on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.
- Maintained an Environmental Assessment and Licensing process that was effective, transparent and fair, and continues to meet all legislative and regulatory requirements, including the opportunity for public involvement and participation.
- Managed land use, municipal, industrial, and hazardous waste sources of pollutants through appropriate licence specifications, limits, terms and conditions, that ensure protection at all project stages.

2. Stewardship

To meet the intent of Principle # 2, the Department ensures:

a) its plans, policies and decisions ensure the economy, the environment, human health and social well being are managed for the equal benefit of present and future generations; and

b) its decisions are balanced with tomorrow's effects.

Examples:

- A new Tire Stewardship Program began operating in April 2008 and the Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation (195/2008) under *The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act* was registered on December 22nd, 2008.
- The new Regulation is based on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and makes the "stewards" of packaging and printed paper responsible for organizing and supporting a program to recycle those materials, and to reduce litter. Stewards are companies and people who sell or distribute packaging or printed materials in Manitoba.
- Tire Stewardship Manitoba (TSM), an industry association established by the Manitoba Motor Dealers' Association, the Retail Council of Canada, The Rubber Association of Canada and the Western Canada Tire Dealers, assumed responsibility for tire stewardship in Manitoba on April 1, 2008. The new industry-led program is intended to ensure the environmental and economic sustainability of Manitoba's scrap tire recycling program.

- Regulated programs under *The WRAP Act* recycled 96,846 tonnes of material in 2008/09, including 10,161 tonnes of rubber from scrap tires, 70,338 tonnes of packaging and paper through municipal recycling programs and 16,347 tonnes of used oil products – an increase of 2,622 tonnes from 2007/08.

- The *Used Oil, Oil Filters and Containers Stewardship Regulation* prohibits sale of lubricating oil products unless the vendor is registered and belongs to the stewardship program operated by Manitoba Association for Resource Recovery Corp. (MARRC). In total, 53 Eco-Centres have been established in partnership with municipal governments and 22 privately operated depots collect used oil, filters and containers.

3. Shared Responsibility and Understanding

To meet the intent of Principle # 3, the Department ensures:

a) it takes responsibility for sustaining the economy, the environment, human health and social well-being and be accountable for its decisions and actions in a spirit of partnership and open co-operation with all Manitobans;
b) its decisions and activities reflect Manitoba's shared common economic, physical and social environment;
c) it understands and respects differing economic and social views, values, traditions and aspirations in its decision making and activities; and
d) it considers and reflects in its decisions and activities the aspirations, needs and views of the people of the various geographical and ethnic groups in Manitoba, including aboriginal peoples to facilitate equitable management of Manitoba's common resources.

Examples:

- The Department continues to play an instrumental role in developing a policy on consultation with First Nation/Métis/Aboriginal people and has also taken a lead role in facilitating dialogue between the Aboriginal communities.

- Established a mutually beneficial partnership aimed at reconciling the Treaty relationship between the Crown and First nation peoples through the signing of the *Widokidadiwin: Partnership Agreement between the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba and Manitoba Conservation: November 19th, 2008.*

- Participated in the implementation of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation Joint Resource Management Agree and establishment of the Resource Management Board.

- Several sessions were held with officials of the Manitoba Métis Federation towards establishing a practical understanding of Métis harvesting rights.

- Forestry Branch provided a grant of $23,400 and staff involvement to support educational programs delivered by the Manitoba Forestry Association, including Envirothon, an environmental education competition.

- The Tree Improvement Program provides a genetically improved seed source for reforestation and ensures the conservation of the forest genetic resource. The program consists of eight government/industry co-operatives, with Tolko Manitoba, Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company and Tembec. There are six separate provincial programs and Tree Improvement staff manages and provides technical direction for all programs.

- The Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund provides support to non-profit community-based organizations to undertake projects that will enhance the natural resources of the province. It also encourages organizations to develop local projects that foster better understanding of natural resources issues and the environment.

- A broadly-based group of conservation organizations partnering to restore the Delta Marsh continued to make progress. Survey work and soil testing necessary for the design of structures to exclude adult common carp from the marsh was completed.

4. Prevention

To meet the intent of Principle # 4, the Department ensures:

a) its activities and decisions and legislation anticipate, and prevent or mitigate, significant adverse economic, environmental, human health and social effects, and
b) have particular careful regard to its decisions and actions whose impacts are not entirely certain but which, on reasonable and well-informed grounds, appear to pose serious threats to the economy, the environment, human health and social well being.

Examples:

- The Department continued its participation in the Action Plan for Bovine Tuberculosis Management in Manitoba and increased surveillance for Chronic Wasting Disease.
- Conducted aerial and ground surveillance for illegal baiting and feeding of wildlife in Game Hunting Areas 23/23A, 18/18A/18B/18C, around Riding Mountain National Park and Duck Mountain Provincial Park and Forest.
- A two-year investigation relating to the illegal sale of Lake Sturgeon that concluded in 2008 was addressed by the courts. Guilty pleas were entered and the court assessed total fines of $1,500.00.
- Two school presentations and K9 demonstrations were conducted in a northern community to educate the children about the dangers and consequences of lighting fires. High profile patrolling of the community and stopping to speak with residents about fire prevention reduced fire starts.
- Regional staff represents Manitoba Conservation on the Provincial Shoreline Erosion Technical Committee. Water levels on Lake Winnipeg have created a number of areas along the south basin that are exhibiting significant rates of erosion.
- The "Bears and Bees" project in the Ethelbert area continued with four outfitters maintaining approximately 20 electric fences around chronic bee-yard depredation sites to assist Manitoba's largest honey producer. Nuisance bear harvest is significantly reduced and no fences were breached by bears.
- Conducted surveys, efficacy tests and research on significant insects and diseases. Pests and diseases monitored included spruce budworm, Dutch elm disease, jack pine budworm, elm bark beetles, dwarf mistletoe, western gall rust, armillaria root rot, spruce beetle, eastern larch beetle and pine root collar weevil. Forest health data is collected in regeneration, free-to-grow and pre-harvest surveys to develop management prescriptions and track substantially infected stands.
- Emergency funding was provided for the aerial application of the biosynthetic insecticide, Mimic (tebufenozide), to combat Spruce Budworm which continued to infest areas of Manitoba in 2008. On the 14,212 hectares in the Northwest Region, 11,069 ha received a single application of 70 grams a.i. of Mimic® per ha and 3,143 ha received a double application. The aerial application resulted in good budworm population suppression and foliage protection.
- Producers are required to contact Manitoba Conservation when reportable manure spills occur. Reportable spills include spills that: exceed 10,000 litres; occur during transport; involve manure escaping the boundary of the agricultural operation; or result in manure entering a surface water feature or groundwater. Staff responded to approximately 20 reportable and not-reportable spills.

5. Conservation and Enhancement

To meet the intent of Principle # 5, the Department ensures:

a) its activities and decisions maintain the ecological processes, biological diversity and life-support systems of the environment;
b) that renewable natural resources are harvested on a sustainable yield basis;

c) that those persons who have been allocated provincial resources make wise and efficient use of them; and
d) its programs and activities enhance the long-term productive capability, quality and capacity of natural ecosystems.

Examples:

- New parks and ecological reserves added to Manitoba's network of protected areas included Whitemouth Bog Ecological Reserve and Duff Roblin Provincial Park.
- Watchable Wildlife sites at Oak Hammock Marsh and Whitewater Lake WMAs were enhanced through the development of new trails for birders and islands for shorebirds and waterfowl.
- The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) promotes, protects and enhances Canada's river heritage, and ensures that Canada's leading rivers are managed in a sustainable manner. The CHRS is built on river stewardship, co-operation and public support. Rivers in the CHRS possess outstanding natural and/or cultural values and showcase the benefits of healthy river environments.
- To achieve the Provincial government goal of phasing out commercial logging from Provincial parks while maintaining a viable forest sector, the Sustainable Forestry Unit and other Forestry staff worked with industry to ensure the province's commitments to the forest industry could be met while transitioning commercial timber allocations out of four provincial parks.
- The Protected Areas Initiative (PAI) contributes to long-term sustainable development by assembling a network of core protected areas designed to conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity across Manitoba. Protected areas consist of land, freshwater, or marine areas that are free from oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydroelectric development, logging, mining, and other activities that may significantly and adversely affect habitat.
- The Heritage Marsh Program incorporates marshes known to be of extraordinary importance to the well being of wildlife and people. Eight Heritage Marshes are formally recognized (Saskeram, Summerberry, Delta, Oak Hammock, Rat River, Grants Lake, Proven Lake, and Lidcliff), and an additional 19 have been identified as candidate marshes.
- Discovered two new locations for Gattinger's Agalinis, bringing the total in the province to three. This plant was first found here in 2007, and is listed as Endangered in Canada under *TheSpecies at Risk Act (SARA)*.
- Co-coordinated and chaired of regular meetings of the Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee, a multi-stakeholder body comprised of 11 partners representing government, industry, NGOs, academics, communities and others.
- Monitored 45 radio collared caribou within 5 populations on the east side of Lake Winnipeg to obtain information on their status, movements and habitat use with major emphasis on research related to the Owl Lake herd: e.g. assessment of calf recruitment/adult survival rates and effects monitoring of an experimental forest harvest.

6. Rehabilitation and Reclamation

To meet the intent of Principle # 6, the Department ensures:
a) it actively endeavours to repair or have repaired damage to, or degradation of, the environment; and
b) that the Department builds into its future allocations of and plans for the use of resources the requirement to rehabilitate and reclaim areas and resources that may be damaged.

Examples:

- Planted 167,400 conifer seedlings on 104.2 ha Crown Land including a 6.5 ha area in the Spruce Woods Provincial Forest.

- Introduced *The Forest Amendment Act* into the Manitoba Legislative Assembly in November 2008. Several amendments were proposed, including changes to improve the department's ability to track timber harvesting and movement, increase enforcement abilities, stronger penalties, and the removal of commercial logging from provincial parks.

- Played a lead role in the continuing Flin Flon area human health risk assessment for exposure to metals in soils and its joint governance with the Government of Saskatchewan.

- The Environmental Remediation Program completed its assessment phase and identified $103.4 million in potential environmental liabilities for which the Department is or may become responsible.

7. Global Responsibility

To meet the intent of Principle # 7, the Department ensures:
a) it thinks globally when acting locally, recognizing there is economic, ecological and social interdependence among provinces and nation; and
b) it works co-operatively, within Canada and internationally, to integrate economic, environmental, human health and social factors in decision making while developing comprehensive and equitable solutions to problems.

Examples:

- Continued to participate with Northwest Province in South Africa in an international project to work on sustainability issues and indicators.

- Co-chaired a national working group on the development of improved environmental assessment practices across Canada through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) forum.

- Worked cooperatively with other Canadian jurisdictions and the CCME Secretariat to coordinate and advance environmental management issues across Canada, including leading the development of improved environmental assessment practices across Canada and helping to achieve a national wastewater strategy.

- Participated as Manitoba's representative on the following intergovernmental committees:
    - North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (Canada Implementation Working Committee and Canada Implementation Senior Officials Committee), and
    - CCME committees, including the Environmental Protection and Planning Committee and as co-chair of the Environmental Assessment Committee, and the Water Agenda Development Committee.

- The Manitoba Round Table awarded Sustainable Development Scholarships to two students in Manitoba – one for graduate research on the impact of genetically modified canola on the environment and rural livelihoods, the other for undergraduate studies and personal efforts that reflect a commitment to the principles of sustainable development.

- Continued participation on the Federal-Provincial Working Group (FPWG) on Ozone Depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternatives and met to consult on provincial and federal harmonization approaches for the continued implementation of the 2001 National *Action Plan (NAP) for the Environmental Control of Ozone Depleting Substances and Their Halocarbon Alternatives,* which was created to meet national and international commitments under the Montreal Protocol.

Sustainable Development Guidelines

1. Efficient Uses of Resources

To meet the intent of Guidelines # 1, the Department ensures:
a) encourage and facilitate development and application and use of systems for proper resource pricing, demand management and resource allocation together with incentives to encourage efficient use of resources; and
b) employ full-cost accounting to provide better information for decision-makers.

Examples:
- Participated on an inter-departmental team headed by Aboriginal and Northern Affairs meeting with representatives of the Manitoba Denesuline Sayisi Dene and Northlands Dene First Nations, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Kivalliq Inuit Association and Canada on land and wildlife harvesting and management issues in northern Manitoba.

- Fire mapping development occurred with the in-house GPS mapping software (OPSGPS) to permit the crew that suppresses the fire to easily map the fire with a handheld GPS. This mapping initiative involved hands on GPS training with fire crews as part of their annual crew training.

- The *Forest Productivity Program* manages databases and uses statistical techniques and tools, including models for predicting growth, decay, yield and quality of Manitoba's forests. The program provides the base information to assist in timber supply sustained yield projections, provincial forest management plans and silviculture activities.

- The Sustainable Forestry Unit (SFU) works closely with the other sections within Forestry Branch to ensure co-ordination on issues, such as wood supply, fibre quality, forest management, wood tenure, etc. The Unit is working to enhance forestry opportunities within the context of sustainable fibre usage and environmentally responsible forest management practices.

- Worked closely to ensure co-ordination on sustainable forestry issues, such as wood supply, fibre quality, forest management, wood tenure and worked to enhance forestry opportunities within the context of sustainable fibre usage and environmentally responsible forest management practices.

2. Public Participation

To meet the intent of Guideline # 2, the Department ensures:
a) use and establish forums which encourage and provide opportunity for consultation and meaningful participation in departmental decision making processes by Manitobans;
b) provide due process, prior notification and appropriate and timely redress for those adversely affected by departmental decisions and actions; and
c) strive to achieve consensus amongst citizens and the Department with regard to decisions affecting them.

Examples:
- Hunting continues to play an important role for Manitobans. The 3,700 youth hunting license sold in Manitoba will ensure that our hunting heritage will continue in the future.

- Regional and District staff participated as provincial representatives on the Nelson House, Split Lake, York Factory, Norway House and Fox Lake Resource Management Boards, the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board, the Wapisu Caribou Committee, the Northeast Woodland Caribou Committee and the Wapusk National Park Management Board.

- Participated on the department's negotiating committee towards the establishment of the Cree and the Island Lake Regional Resource management Boards as provided for under the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin Accord.

- Consulted with First Nations and Aboriginal communities across Tolko's Forest Management License Area on Tolko's 2009/10 Forest Harvest and Renewal Plan to fulfill the government's duty to consult with First Nation and Aboriginal communities on government decisions or actions that could infringe or affect Treaty and aboriginal rights.

- Initiated Crown consultation processes with 33 aboriginal communities regarding 2009/10 Annual Operating Plans produced by Louisiana Pacific and Mountain Quota holders Association in the Mountain Forest Section.

- Wildlife staff continued Moose Management presentations on declining moose populations with local user groups and First Nations around Duck Mountain Provincial Park and Porcupine Provincial Forest.

- Consultations were completed on Amisk Park Reserve and Duff Roblin Park Reserves. Amisk Park Reserve was renewed for a further five years and the Duff Roblin Park Reserve located at the south Floodway Inlet Control Structure was designated Duff Roblin Provincial Park.

- The Parks District Service review process continued, in consultation with cottagers and commercial operators who are located in provincial parks.

- Manitoba Parks continued to provide a $5,000 grant to the Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters (MCSW) for water safety public education purposes, and was involved in the drowning prevention component of the Provincial Injury Prevention Strategy.

- The Beach Safety patrols made over 12,500 contacts with beach visitors at three provincial parks in 2008. 5800 contacts were made regarding public education of parental supervision responsibilities. Five water rescues were performed.

- Delivery of the field program included two full-time interpreters at Birds Hill and Whiteshell Provincial Parks, and 19 seasonal interpreters. Programs were presented at Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Hecla/Grindstone, Lockport, Paint Lake, River Road, St. Malo, St. Norbert, Spruce Woods, Turtle Mountain and Whiteshell Provincial Parks.

- Expanded the Junior Naturalist and Park Explorer children's programs. Booklets for Whiteshell, Spruce Woods, Birds Hill and Hecla/Grindstone were revised. New activity booklets were developed for Grand Beach Provincial Park and a generic Manitoba Provincial Parks booklet was developed to be distributed at other provincial park campgrounds. A booklet titled Nature Detective was developed for the five and under audience, to be assisted by the child's parents and/or older siblings.

- Provided secretariat support to the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development, its task groups and committees. Chaired by the Minister of Conservation, the Round Table is a 26 member advisory body to the provincial government, which provides advice and support to decision makers.

3. Access to Information

To meet the intent of Guideline # 3, the Department ensures:

a) improve and refine economic, environmental, human health and social information related to natural resources and the environment; and
b) provide and promote the opportunity for equal and timely access to its information by all Manitobans.

Examples:

- The Conservation and Environment Library supports access to print and electronic specialized information resources for Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Water Stewardship, Environment Canada in Winnipeg, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, and the public. Current information related to the mandates of each partner organization is made available to staff and to the public. In the 2008/09 year, the library responded to over 3,000 requests for information both from staff and the public.

- The Department continues to implement its French Language Services Plan to reflect current operations and in keeping with the *Chartier Report* on French Language Services. Translation of documents and the website continues and the Department continues to participate in the Bilingual Service Centres.

- The Public Information section provided information to the public regarding the numerous programs delivered by the Departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship. This service was provided in person, by telephone, Internet and mail, including the following responses to requests for information and assistance in 2008/09:
  - 33,151 direct telephone requests to the Information Officers.
  - 30,704 calls were received by the automated Public Information Line, of which 10,520 where handled directly by the line.
  - 71,966 in person requests.
  - 1,261 requests through the Internet.
  - 5,135 information packages mailed.

- Developed and maintained the Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) spatial data warehouse that provides all of government's geospatial mapping data over the internet to the general public and government agencies.

- Assisted in the development of enhancements to the new Parks Reservation System to expand its operational capabilities, deployed additional computers in 11 campground offices, and installed new automated check-in wireless devices in several others.

- All government geospatial GIS digital data and related databases and meta-data with interactive mapping tools is available online to the general public via the Internet. Enhancements to the Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) data warehouse were completed in 2008/09. A new interactive map server was configured to provide seamless access of data for viewing and product downloading.

- Provided Geographic System Support to staff within Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship as well as mapping and analysis support to staff. Provided project management to Water Stewardship for the development of the Management and Planning System (MAPS) application as well as the management and creation of digital elevation models for Morden, Rivers and Rahls Island.

- Work continued on the creation of the National Hydro Network for Manitoba in co-operation with Natural Resources Canada. Maintained the digital spatial data warehouse for all Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship users of GIS.

- Lake depth maps for lakes in Manitoba and Ontario are continually being updated to include the Universal Transverse Mercator grids and coordinates. This information is required for clients who are now using hand held Global Positioning System (GPS) units. All lake depth maps are available on paper or waterproof paper.

- Interpretive trails were upgraded consistent with the work plan and personal interpretive programming was provided in 12 provincial parks.

- A new contract was initiated to manage the artifact collection located at St. Norbert Provincial Heritage Park, previously administered by the Fort Garry Historical Society which owns the artifacts.

- Prepared and distributed a newsletter to communities in the Eastside planning area. Along with updates on Traditional Area Land Use Planning and Regional Resource Management Board initiatives, information included background information on the WNO Planning Initiative, the Eastside Aboriginal Sustainable Tourism Inc., the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin Council of Chiefs Accord and Pimachiowin Aki, the world heritage project involving the provinces of Manitoba and Ontario, the First Nation communities and traditional territories of Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi, Poplar River and Pikangikum, and the Atikaki and Woodland Caribou Provincial Parks.

4. Integrated Decision Making and Planning

To meet the intent of Guideline # 4, the Department ensures:
a) encourage, facilitate, establish and ensure its decision making and planning processes are efficient, timely, accountable and cross-sectoral; and
b) incorporate into its decision making and planning an inter-generational perspective of future needs and consequences.

Examples:

- Monitored the transmission line and road development associated with Manitoba Hydro's Wuskwatim project and worked with Hydro staff to address and mitigate issues as they occurred. In particular assistance was provided in designing mitigation measures for boreal woodland caribou occurring along the transmission line routing.

- The weather section worked closely with the Manitoba Hydro Operations Center to develop a warning system that maps the proximity of known fires and MODIS hotspots to hydro transmission lines. These Hydro Proximity Reports have enabled Manitoba Hydro to quickly access operational fire data and maps inside their response center using common tools such as Google Earth.

- Several aircraft and personnel imports were carried out with Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Quebec, and the Northwest Territories during the spring fire season through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) Mutual Aid Resource Sharing Agreement. Imports were also carried out with Minnesota through the Border Co-operation Agreement.

- Establishment of the Manitoba-Ontario Interprovincial Wilderness Area in June 2008, fulfilling a commitment of the Atikaki Provincial Park Management Plan.

- Continued to participate in the Canadian Forest Service's First Nations Forestry Program. A team comprised of First Nation's organizations, industry and government (federal and provincial) delivers this program, which is funded by the federal government.

- Provided a strategic and systematic approach for the Department to work with other governments on environment and natural resource issues, and contributed to a strong role and voice in national discussions on environmental protection in Canada.

- Assisted municipalities and Planning Districts in the preparation of development plans and zoning by-laws by coordinating preparation of departmental advice and information on planning, management and use of natural resources, and responding to requests for studies, maps, and statistical compilations required to properly allocate resources.

5. Waste Minimization and Substitution

To meet the intent of Guideline # 5, the Department ensures:
a) encourage and promote, within and outside of the Department, the development and use of substitutes for scarce resources where such substitutes are both environmentally sound and economically viable; and
b) reduce, reuse, recycle and recover the products the Department uses in its daily operations and encourage, promote and facilitate the 4 R's in society generally.

Examples:

- On June 27, 2007 a severe windstorm damaged the forest in the northern areas of Whiteshell Provincial Park. An area of 24,000 ha. or an area almost half the size of the City of Winnipeg was impacted. Damage to the forest resource was estimated at one million cubic meters of softwood and hardwood. The regional salvage program developed in 2007/08 continued into a second year.

- Over 167,000 cubic meters of wood was salvage harvested from 1400 ha. of forested land throughout the winter. The salvage program was concluded at the end of March. Most of the wood was processed and shipped to market.

- Refrigerant Management Canada (RMC), a national voluntary industry stewardship organization collects and safely disposes of obsolete and surplus ODS. In 2008/09 1,622,723 kgs of high and low pressure refrigerants and 1,462,824 kgs of refrigerant waste were processed.

- Continued support for Refrigerant Management Canada (RMC), a national voluntary industry stewardship organization and its comprehensive halocarbon stewardship program for the proper management, collection and disposal of obsolete and surplus ODS. As of March 31, 2009 RMC accepted and processed 1,622,723 kgs of high and low pressure refrigerants and destroyed 1,462,824 kgs of refrigerant waste.

- Registration of manure storage facilities that were constructed prior to the regulatory requirements for permits is mandatory. The registration process provides a process to have the environmental performance of these older facilities inspected and assessed regularly. Applications for registration of approximately 475 manure storage facilities have been received to date.

- Recycling programs were implemented in Birds Hill and Grand Beach Provincial Parks.

6. Research and Innovation

To meet the intent of Guideline # 6, the Department ensures:

a) encourage and assist in the research, development, application and sharing of knowledge and technologies which further economic, environmental, human health and social well-being.

Examples:

- Manitoba citizens are continuing to help the department better understand the distribution, relative abundance and conservation status of dragonflies in the province.

- Manitoba participated with Environment Canada and other provincial and territorial representatives as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the development of a document on the identification of critical habitat for boreal woodland caribou and continues to participate at the national level in finalizing the aforementioned.

- Development of the first mapped occurrences in the CDC database for Polar Bear dens in Wapusk National Park, based on provincial flight surveys from the 1970s – an important baseline data set for assessing the effects of climate change on this Threatened species.

- Two coastal polar bear surveys were completed in 2008. The July survey was done when the Hudson Bay was 50% free of ice and 95 polar bears were counted. On the September survey 281 polar bears were counted along coast between Churchill and the Manitoba/Ontario border. The distribution of the polar bears along the coastline was similar for both surveys, indicating little movement during the ice free period.

- Continued participation on the Canadian Geodetic Reference System Committee (CGRSC) of the Canadian Council on Geomatics. CGRSC is a federal-provincial working committee that is mandated to plan and coordinate the maintenance and improvement of the geodetic spatial reference system in Canada.

- Woodland caribou research and monitoring continues to aid in assessment of industrial impacts associated with the forestry, mining sectors and in respect to Manitoba Hydro developments. The North West Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee chaired by Conservation staff has forged collaborative partnerships with industry that saw continued work on genetic based assessments of regional herds, detailed inventory and affects monitoring of the Wuskwatim Transmission line development and commencement of baseline population inventories required to assess effects of proposed expansion in forestry operations.

- A survey was done on the calving ground of the Qamanirjuaq barren-ground caribou herd to determine a population estimate for the herd. The preliminary analysis of results indicates the herd has declined since the last survey was done in 1994. Funding for the survey was cost-shared with governments, industry and non-government organizations all providing financial support; Manitoba contributed $100,000 (25% of the total cost) and two staff to the survey.

- The Summerberry Research Project in the Lower Saskatchewan River Delta continued with a full complement of research staff undertaking detailed investigations into marsh productivity in relation to marsh management techniques being applied. Progress on this initiative is being closely tied to the workings of the OCN/MC Joint Management of Resources Board.

- As part of the National Forest Pest Strategy, Forest Health and Renewal is conducting an ash tree inventory in urban, agricultural, river bottom and boreal forests. The purpose is to determine the spatial distribution, mensuration and value of the ash tree resource for contribution to a Pest Risk Analysis that can be utilized nationally and quantify the potential impact of Emerald Ash Borer in the Prairie Provinces.

Sustainable Development Procurement Goals

1. Education, Training, and Awareness

To meet the intent of Goal #1, the department ensures a culture that supports sustainable procurement practices exists within their department by:
a) increasing awareness about the benefits of Sustainable Development Procurement among departments, employees and vendors; and
b) expanding the knowledge and skills of procurement practitioners and end users.

Examples:

- Continued with sustainable procurement education and training. Department staff involved in procurement must ensure sustainability is considered for all purchase requisitions.

- Shared information on sustainable development procurement and the provincial green buildings policy with staff, vendors and contractors.

- Supported the development of a "green procurement" website designed for the use of Manitoba public sector organizations.

2. Pollution Prevention and Human Health Protection

To meet the intent of Goal #2, the department needs to protect the health and environment of Manitobans from possible adverse effects of their operations and activities, and provide a safe and healthy working environment by:
a) reducing their purchase and use of toxic substances; and
b) reducing solid waste sent to landfill from Government of Manitoba owned or leased facilities occupied by the department.

Examples:

- The Fire Program has gone "green" on otherwise disposable items such as paper plates, cups, forks, knives and spoons required by fire staff. The products are made from potato, sugar cane or corn and are biodegradable and are compostable. Washable dishes along with stainless cutlery continue to be used on a normal basis.

- An "eco friendly" corn water bottle has been sent out for testing by initial attack fire crews. The water bottle will be used by initial attack crews and emergency fire fighters, replacing the regular water bottle. When accepted, the product will cut down the use of bottled water and recycling requirements.

- An obsolete pesticide collection program for agriculture producers, greenhouses, nurseries and golf courses to safely dispose of obsolete and unwanted pesticides at ag-retail collection sites throughout the province was supported in partnership with CropLife Canada, Canadian Agri-Retailers Association, Manitoba Producers Association, Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives, and Manitoba Conservation. A total of 51,158 Kgs of obsolete and unwanted agricultural pesticides was collected and destroyed via high temperature incineration.

3. Reduction of Fossil Fuel Emissions

To meet the intent of Goal #3, a department needs to reduce fossil fuel emissions of their operations and activities by:

a) reducing both consumption and emissions of vehicle fuels; and
b) as a substitute for regular fuels, increase their use of ethanol-blended fuels and alternative energy sources.

Examples:

- Continued to encourage use of ethanol fuel, where available.

- Continued the use of hybrid vehicles where appropriate for Departmental purposes.

4. Resource Conservation

To meet the intent of Goal #4, a department needs to reduce their use and consumption of resources in a sustainable and environmentally preferable manner by:

a) reduce the total annual consumption of utilities including natural gas, electricity, propane, fuel oil and water in all leased or owned Government of Manitoba buildings and premises occupied by the department; and
b) within the context of reduced resource use, increase the proportion of environmentally preferable products and environmentally preferable services used by the department.

Examples:

- Upgraded the lagoon in Whiteshell Provincial Park at West Hawk Lake and constructed a temporary wastewater holding cell at Grindstone in Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park pending environmental approval of a permanent wastewater treatment lagoon.

- Continued to conduct audits on Conservation owned buildings to develop realistic minimum requirements to undertake retrofits. Standard clauses for sustainable development procurement on all purchase requisitions are reflected in the Department's Contract Manual.

- Extended the life and capacity of provincial park infrastructure and enhanced recreational opportunities through upgrading, improving and developing park facilities. Environmental protection in provincial parks was enhanced through the installation and construction of appropriate facilities for the treatment of water and sewage, and the disposal of garbage.

- Nester One, the Department's camp at Cape Churchill received $82,000 from the Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund, which was created by the federal government (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada) to upgrade key arctic research facilities. The funds will be used to expand facilities, repair existing buildings, and construct several new structures, including water and observation towers.

5. Community Economic Development

To meet the intent of Goal #5, a department would ensure that their procurement practices foster and sustain community economic development by:

a) increasing the participation of Aboriginal peoples and suppliers in providing for the department's goods and services needs;
b) assisting in the development and growth of local environmental industries and markets for environmentally preferable products and services; and
c) increasing the participation of small businesses, community based businesses and Co-ops in the department's procurement opportunities.

Examples:

- Continued efforts toward enhancing Aboriginal and local procurement in support of community based economic development within the context of government's public tendering policies.

- Continued offering the Cottage Lot Initiative which makes cottage lots available to Manitobans. New development enhances the quality of life for Manitobans by providing opportunities to enjoy Manitoba's natural beauty and provides economic benefits to communities and municipalities.

- Continued enhancements under the Provincial Camping Initiative. West Hawk Lake and Toniata campgrounds in Whiteshell Provincial Park received significant upgrades and a camping bay in Turtle Mountain Provincial Park was electrified. Construction was initiated on a major expansion of the Wellman Lake campground in Duck Mountain Provincial Park. Construction also began on yurts at Stephenfield and Camp Morton Provincial Parks, and on new Family Vacation Cabins at Hecla Provincial Park.

- Non-resident hunting continues to be an important activity in the Northeast Region with 58 lodge operators/outfitters being allocated 212 moose licenses, 745 black bear licenses and 440 caribou licenses.

- Whitewater Lake continued to attract visitors from all around the world as a high profile destination for birding. Staff began work on watchable wildlife projects at Whitewater Lake and Gerald Malaher WMA near Melita.

- The Forestry Branch and industry carried out forest renewal treatments on 9,881 hectares, including re-treatments. Most of the area was planted with approximately 14.2 million trees that were delivered through regular tendered contracts and some non-tendered negotiated contracts with First Nation companies.

- The Sustainable Forestry Unit continued to work with communities in various parts of the province that were interested in developing forestry-based businesses, such as saw mills or log home building establishments.

- Participated in the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative Management Committee. This initiative brings together several departments including Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Health, and Conservation and is intended to promote healthy food choices and support the development of local food sources in northern Manitoba.

INTÉGRATION DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

En vertu de la *Loi sur le développement durable*, chaque ministère est tenu de faire état, dans son rapport annuel, des progrès accomplis sur le plan de l'intégration du développement durable dans ses activités. La section ci-dessous ne fournit que quelques exemples des nombreuses activités que le ministère a entreprises pour intégrer ou appliquer les principes et lignes directrices du développement durable dans ses fonctions et ses activités quotidiennes. Veuillez noter qu'un exemple peut illustrer plus d'un principe ou d'une ligne directrice.

Principes de développement durable

1. Intégration des décisions touchant l'environnement, la société, la santé et l'économie

Afin de respecter l'intention du principe n° 1, le ministère doit veiller à ce que :

a) ses décisions et ses activités économiques reflètent de façon adéquate les effets sur l'environnement, la santé et la société;

b) ses décisions, ses activités et ses initiatives en matière d'environnement et de santé tiennent compte de façon adéquate des conséquences sur l'économie, la santé et la société.

Exemples d'activité :

- L'Initiative d'aménagement Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO) vise à ce que les décisions à venir concernant les terres, les ressources et le développement tiennent compte des besoins des Premières nations, du public, des collectivités locales et de divers intervenants et groupes d'intérêt dans les secteurs environnemental, social, culturel et économique, et de la santé, dans la région de la rive est du lac Winnipeg.

- Le ministère a eu recours à un processus d'évaluation environnementale et de délivrance de permis efficace, transparent et équitable, et il a continué à satisfaire aux exigences prévues par les lois et les règlements, y compris les possibilités de participation et d'engagement du public.

- Le ministère a géré l'aménagement du territoire, ainsi que les sources municipales et industrielles de déchets dangereux en élaborant des spécifications, des limites et des conditions appropriées pour les licences afin d'assurer la protection de l'environnement à toutes les étapes des projets.

2. Supervision de la gestion de l'environnement

Afin de respecter l'intention du principe n° 2, le ministère doit veiller à ce que :

a) ses plans, ses politiques et ses décisions fassent en sorte que l'économie, l'environnement, la santé et le bien-être social soient gérés pour le bénéfice des générations présentes et futures;

b) ses décisions tiennent compte des conséquences futures.

Exemples d'activité :

- L'exploitation du nouveau Programme de gestion des pneus a commencé en avril 2008, et l'enregistrement du *Règlement sur la gestion des emballages et des imprimés* (195/2008) en vertu de la *Loi sur la réduction du volume et de la production des déchets* a eu lieu le 22 décembre 2008.

- Le nouveau règlement est fondé sur la responsabilité élargie des producteurs (REP) et rend les « gestionnaires » des emballages et des imprimés responsables de l'organisation et du soutien d'un programme de recyclage des matériaux et de réduction des déchets sauvages. Les gestionnaires sont des entreprises et des personnes qui vendent ou distribuent des emballages ou des imprimés au Manitoba.

- Tire Stewardship Manitoba Inc. (TSM), une association industrielle établie par la Manitoba Motor Dealers' Association, le Conseil canadien du commerce de détail, l'Association canadienne de l'industrie du caoutchouc et la Western Canada Tire Dealers, a assumé la responsabilité de la gestion des pneus au Manitoba le 1^er^ avril 2008. Le nouvel organisme mené par l'industrie vise à assurer la viabilité environnementale et économique du programme manitobain de recyclage des pneus de rebut.

- Les programmes réglementés en vertu de la *Loi sur la réduction du volume et de la production des déchets* ont permis de recycler 96 846 tonnes de matériaux en 2008/09, y compris 10 161 tonnes de caoutchouc provenant de pneus de rebut, 70 338 tonnes d'emballage et de papier grâce aux programmes de recyclage municipaux et 16 347 tonnes de produits d'huile usée. Cela constitue une augmentation de 2 622 tonnes par rapport à 2007-2008.

- Conformément au *Règlement sur la gestion de l'huile usée et des filtres à huile et contenants usagés*, il est interdit de vendre des produits d'huile de graissage à moins que le vendeur ne se soit enregistré et qu'il ne soit membre du programme de gestion exploité par la Manitoba Association for Resource Recovery Corp. (MARRC). Au total, on a mis sur pied 53 points de collecte en partenariat avec les administrations municipales ainsi que 22 dépôts privés afin de recueillir l'huile usée, les filtres à huile et les contenants d'huile.

3. Responsabilité partagée et compréhension

Afin de respecter l'intention du principe n° 3, le ministère doit veiller :

a) à reconnaître qu'il est responsable du développement durable de l'économie, de l'environnement, de la santé et du bien-être social, et à assumer aussi la responsabilité de ses décisions et de ses actions dans un esprit de collaboration et de coopération avec l'ensemble des Manitobains et Manitobaines;
b) par ses décisions et ses activités, à illustrer le fait que les Manitobains et les Manitobaines ont un environnement économique, physique et social commun;
c) dans ses décisions et ses activités, à comprendre et à respecter les valeurs, les traditions, les aspirations et les points de vue différents en matière économique et sociale;
d) dans ses décisions et ses activités, à tenir compte des aspirations, des besoins et des points de vue des diverses régions et des divers groupes ethniques du Manitoba, notamment ceux des peuples autochtones, en vue d'une gestion équitable des ressources communes de la province.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le ministère continue de jouer un rôle instrumental dans l'élaboration d'une politique sur la consultation des Premières nations, des Métis et des Autochtones ainsi qu'un rôle de premier plan dans la facilitation du dialogue entre les collectivités autochtones.

- Il a établi un partenariat mutuellement bénéfique qui vise à améliorer les rapports fondés sur les traités entre la Couronne et les Premières nations grâce à la signature de l'entente de partenariat du 19 novembre 2008 entre la Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba et Conservation Manitoba intitulée *Widokidadiwin: Partnership Agreement between the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba and Manitoba Conservation: November 19th, 2008.*

- Il a participé à la mise en œuvre de l'entente conjointe sur la gestion des ressources avec la nation crie Opaskwayak ainsi qu'à l'établissement du conseil de gestion des ressources.

- Plusieurs séances ont eu lieu avec les représentants officiels de la Manitoba Métis Federation afin d'obtenir une compréhension pratique des droits de récolte des Métis.

- La Direction des forêts a fourni une subvention de 23 400 $ et l'aide de son personnel afin d'appuyer les programmes éducatifs offerts par la Manitoba Forestry Association, dont Envirothon, une compétition de sensibilisation à l'environnement.

- Le *Programme d'amélioration génétique des arbres* fournit une source de semences génétiquement améliorées pour le reboisement et la conservation des ressources génétiques des forêts. Le Programme comprend huit coopératives qui associent le gouvernement et l'industrie, soit Tolko Manitoba, Mountain

Forest Section Renewal Company et Tembec. Il y a six programmes provinciaux distincts, et le personnel de Tree Improvement assure la gestion et la direction technique de tous les programmes.

- Le Fonds spécial de conservation et d'aide aux espèces en voie de disparition fournit un appui aux organismes communautaires sans but lucratif pour leur permettre d'entreprendre des projets améliorant les ressources naturelles de la province. Il encourage également les organismes à élaborer des projets communautaires qui feront mieux comprendre les questions sur les ressources et l'environnement.

- Un groupe d'organismes de conservation diversifiés ayant pour but de restaurer le marais Delta a continué à faire des progrès. Les travaux d'arpentage et d'analyse du sol, nécessaires à la conception de structures servant à exclure la carpe commune adulte du marais, ont été terminés.

4. Prévention

Afin de respecter l'intention du principe n° 4, le ministère doit veiller :
a) dans ses activités, ses décisions et ses textes législatifs, à prévoir les conséquences néfastes d'envergure pour l'économie, l'environnement, la santé et la société, à les prévenir ou en à limiter les effets;
b) à tenir particulièrement compte de ses décisions et ses actions dont les conséquences ne sont pas entièrement claires, mais qui, en se fondant sur des motifs raisonnables et bien informés, semblent créer de graves menaces pour l'économie, l'environnement, la santé et le bien-être social.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le ministère a continué à participer au Plan d'action pour la gestion de la tuberculose bovine au Manitoba et a accru ses activités de surveillance en ce qui concerne la maladie débilitante chronique des cervidés.

- Il a assuré une surveillance aérienne et terrestre visant à empêcher l'alimentation et l'appâtage illicites des animaux sauvages dans les zones de chasse au gibier 23/23A et 18/18A/18B/18C, autour du parc national du mont Riding ainsi que du parc provincial et de la forêt provinciale de Duck Mountain.

- Une enquête de deux ans sur la vente illégale du lac Sturgeon qui a été conclue en 2008 a été réglée par les tribunaux. Des plaidoyers de culpabilité ont été inscrits et le tribunal a évalué des amendes totales de 1 500 $.

- On a offert deux exposés scolaires et des démonstrations de la maternelle à la 9^e année dans une collectivité du nord du Manitoba afin d'éduquer les enfants sur les dangers et les conséquences d'allumer des feux. Des patrouilles communautaires importantes et un dialogue avec les résidents sur la prévention des incendies a permis de réduire le nombre de feux amorcés.

- Le personnel régional représente le ministère de la Conservation du Manitoba au sein du comité technique de l'érosion riveraine de la province. En raison des niveaux d'eau du lac Winnipeg, un certain nombre de régions le long du bassin sud présente des taux importants d'érosion.

- Le projet « Bears and Bees » s'est poursuivi dans la région d'Ethelbert, quatre pourvoyeurs ayant installé environ 20 clôtures électriques autour des sites de déprédation chronique des ruchers pour aider le plus important producteur de miel du Manitoba. La récolte de miel par les ours nuisibles a été grandement réduite et aucune clôture n'a été percée par les ours.

- Le ministère a mené des enquêtes, des tests d'efficacité et des recherches sur des maladies et des insectes importants, notamment la tordeuse des bourgeons de l'épinette, la maladie hollandaise de l'orme, la tordeuse de pin gris, le scolyte de l'orme, le faux-gui, la rouille-tumeur de l'Ouest, le pourridié-agaric, le dendroctone de l'épinette, le dendroctone du mélèze et le charançon du collet du pin. Le ministère a recueilli des données sur la santé des forêts grâce à des enquêtes sur la régénération, la croissance libre et la période de pré-récolte afin d'élaborer des directives de gestion et d'assurer le suivi des peuplements infectés de manière importante.

- Des fonds d'urgence ont été fournis pour l'application aérienne de l'insecticide biosynthétique Mimic (ou tébufénozide), afin de lutter contre la tordeuse des bourgeons de l'épinette qui a continué à infester diverses régions du Manitoba en 2008. Des 14 212 hectares dans la région du Nord-Ouest, 11 069 hectares ont reçu une seule application de 70 g ingrédients actifs de Mimi^{MD} par hectare, et 3 143 hectares, une double application. L'application aérienne a permis une bonne suppression de la population de la tordeuse des bourgeons et une bonne protection des feuilles.

- Les producteurs sont tenus de communiquer avec Conservation Manitoba en cas de déversements de déjections animales à déclaration obligatoire. Les déversements à déclaration obligatoire incluent ceux qui dépassent 10 000 litres, qui ont lieu au cours du transport, qui dépassent les limites de l'exploitation agricole ou qui causent l'infiltration des déjections animales dans les eaux de surface ou souterraines. Le personnel a pris des mesures concernant environ 20 déversements à déclaration obligatoire ou non.

5. Conservation et promotion

Afin de respecter l'intention du principe n° 5, le ministère doit veiller à ce que :
a) ses activités et ses décisions soutiennent les processus écologiques, la biodiversité et les systèmes qui entretiennent la vie de l'environnement;
b) les ressources renouvelables soient exploitées en visant un rendement équilibré;
c) les personnes à qui l'on confie des ressources provinciales les utilisent sagement et efficacement;
d) ses programmes et ses activités améliorent la productivité, la qualité et la capacité à long terme des écosystèmes naturels.

Exemples d'activité :

- Parmi les nouvelles réserves écologiques et les nouveaux parcs ajoutés au réseau des zones protégées du Manitoba, on compte la Réserve écologique du marais Whitemouth et le parc provincial Duff Roblin.

- Les sites d'observation de la faune dans les zones de gestion de la faune du marais d'Oak Hammock et du lac Whitewater ont été améliorés grâce à de nouveaux sentiers pour les ornithologues et de nouvelles îles pour les oiseaux de rivage et la sauvagine.

- Le Réseau des rivières du patrimoine canadien vise la protection et la promotion des rivières du patrimoine canadien, et cherche à veiller à la gestion durable des principales rivières du Canada. Le Réseau repose sur la gestion des rivières, la coopération et l'appui du public. Les rivières visées par le Réseau des rivières du patrimoine canadien ont des valeurs naturelles ou culturelles extraordinaires et montrent les avantages des milieux riverains sains.

- Pour réaliser l'objectif du gouvernement provincial qui consiste à éliminer graduellement les opérations forestières des parcs provinciaux tout en maintenant un secteur forestier viable, le personnel de la Section de la foresterie durable et celui de la Direction des forêts ont collaboré avec l'industrie afin de veiller au respect des engagements de la Province envers l'industrie forestière tout en veillant à retirer les droits de coupe de bois commerciaux de quatre parcs provinciaux.

- L'Initiative des zones protégées a contribué au développement durable à long terme en établissant un réseau de zones centrales protégées conçues pour conserver les écosystèmes et assurer la biodiversité au Manitoba. Les zones protégées consistent en des zones de terrain, d'eau douce ou marines sans exploitation pétrolière, forestière, minière, pétrolière ou gazière et d'aménagement hydroélectrique et d'autres activités pouvant avoir des répercussions négatives importantes sur l'habitat.

- Le Programme des marais du patrimoine incorpore des marais qui ont une importance extraordinaire pour le bien-être de la faune et des gens. Huit marais du patrimoine sont officiellement reconnus (ceux de Saskeram, de Summerberry, de Delta, d'Oak Hammock, de Rivière-aux-rats, du lac Grants, du lac Proven et de Lidcliff) et 19 autres ont été identifiés comme candidats au titre de marais du patrimoine.

- On a découvert deux autres endroits où l'on trouve la gérardie de Gattinger au Manitoba, portant le nombre total dans la province à trois. Cette plante observée pour la première fois au Manitoba en 2007 est inscrite comme espèce en voie de disparition au Canada en vertu de la *Loi sur les espèces en péril*.

- Le ministère a coordonné et présidé les séances normales du comité consultatif sur le caribou des bois de l'est du Manitoba, un organisme à partenaires multiples comprenant 11 partenaires représentant entre autres le gouvernement, l'industrie, les organisations non gouvernementales, les établissements d'enseignement et les collectivités.

- Il a assuré la surveillance de 45 caribous portant des colliers émetteurs parmi cinq populations du côté est du lac Winnipeg afin d'obtenir des données sur leur situation, leurs déplacements et leur habitat en portant une attention particulière à la recherche liée au troupeau du lac Owl : p. ex., l'évaluation des taux de recrutement des faons et de survie des adultes, ainsi que les effets de la surveillance d'une récolte forestière expérimentale.

6. Récupération et remise en état

Afin de respecter l'intention du principe n° 6, le ministère doit veiller :
a) à s'engager activement à remédier aux dommages et à la détérioration subis par l'environnement;
b) à tenir compte des besoins de remise en état et de récupération des zones et des ressources éventuellement endommagées avant de prendre de nouvelles décisions ou d'adopter de nouveaux plans en matière d'exploitation des ressources.

Exemples d'activité :

- On a planté 167 400 semis de conifères sur 104,2 hectares de terres domaniales dont 6,5 hectares dans la forêt provinciale de Spruce Woods.

- Il a présenté la *Loi modifiant la Loi sur les forêts* à l'Assemblée législative en novembre 2008. Plusieurs modifications ont été proposées, afin notamment d'améliorer la capacité du ministère à effectuer un suivi de l'enlèvement et des déplacements du bois, d'augmenter la capacité d'exécution de la *Loi* et d'imposer des peines plus importantes, et de retirer les droits de coupe de bois commerciaux dans les parcs provinciaux.

- Le ministère a joué un rôle prépondérant dans l'évaluation continue des risques sur la santé humaine de l'exposition à divers métaux dans le sol dans la région de Flin Flon ainsi que dans sa gestion commune avec le gouvernement de la Saskatchewan.

- Le programme d'assainissement de l'environnement a terminé l'étape d'évaluation et a déterminé que le ministère est ou pourrait devenir responsable de 103,4 millions de dollars en passif environnemental potentiel.

7. Responsabilité planétaire

Afin de respecter l'intention du principe n° 7, le ministère doit veiller :
a) à adopter un point de vue planétaire lorsqu'il agit en un lieu donné, en reconnaissant l'interdépendance économique, écologique et sociale des provinces et de la nation;
b) à travailler en collaboration, au Canada et sur la scène internationale, afin d'intégrer les facteurs économiques, environnementaux, sociaux et de santé humaine dans les décisions adoptées, tout en essayant de découvrir des solutions équitables et exhaustives aux problèmes.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le ministère a maintenu sa participation, avec la province du nord-ouest de l'Afrique du Sud, à un projet international d'étude des questions de développement durable et d'élaboration d'indicateurs.

- Il a co-présidé un groupe de travail national sur le l'élaboration de meilleures pratiques d'évaluation environnementales dans tout le Canada par l'intermédiaire du forum du Conseil canadien des ministres de l'environnement (CCME).

- Il a collaboré avec d'autres provinces et territoires canadiens et le secrétariat du CCME afin de coordonner et de faire progresser les questions sur la gestion de l'environnement dans tout le Canada, notamment en dirigeant l'élaboration de meilleures pratiques de gestion de l'environnement à l'échelle du pays et en aidant à la réalisation d'une stratégie nationale des eaux usées.

- Il a participé comme représentant manitobain aux comités intergouvernementaux suivants :
  - l'Accord nord-américain de coopération dans le domaine de l'environnement (Canada Implementation Working Committee et Canada Implementation Senior Officials Committe);
  - les comités du CCME, y compris le Comité de protection et de planification relatives à l'environnement du CCME, et à titre de co-président, le Environmental Assessment Committee et le Water Agenda Development Committee.

- La Table ronde du Manitoba a accordé des bourses d'études de développement durable à deux étudiants du Manitoba – l'une pour une recherche de cycle supérieur sur les effets du canola génétiquement modifié sur l'environnement et les moyens de subsistance dans les régions rurales, l'autre pour des études de premier cycle et des efforts personnels traduisant un engagement envers les principes du développement durable.

- Il a continué à participer au Groupe de travail fédéral-provincial sur les substances appauvrissant la couche d'ozone et leurs halocarbures de remplacement ainsi qu'à des consultations sur les approches d'harmonisation fédérales pour la mise en œuvre continue du Plan d'action national pour le contrôle environnemental des substances appauvrissant la couche d'ozone et de leurs halocarbures de remplacement de 2001, qui a été créé en vue de respecter les engagements nationaux et internationaux dans le cadre du protocole de Montréal.

Lignes directrices en matière de développement durable

1. Utilisation efficace des ressources

Pour respecter l'esprit de la ligne directrice n° 1, le ministère doit veiller :

a) à encourager et à faciliter l'élaboration et l'application de systèmes permettant la juste détermination du prix des ressources, la bonne gestion de la demande et la répartition appropriée des ressources assortie de mesures incitatives pour leur utilisation efficace;

b) à appliquer la méthode du coût de revient complet pour mieux informer les décideurs.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le ministère a participé à une équipe interministérielle dirigée par Affaires autochtones et du Nord lors d'une rencontre avec des représentants des Premières nations Denesuline Sayisi Dene et Northlands Dene du Manitoba, de Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, de la Kivalliq Inuit Association et du gouvernement du Canada en ce qui concerne les questions sur l'exploitation et la gestion des terres et de la faune dans les régions du nord du Manitoba.

- Le logiciel de cartographie GPS interne a permis d'élaborer des cartes d'incendies visant à permettre aux équipes de lutte contre les incendies de repérer facilement ces derniers à l'aide d'un GPS portatif. Cette initiative de cartographie a compris une formation pratique d'utilisation du GPS avec les équipes de lutte contre les incendies dans le cadre de leur formation annuelle.

- Le Programme de productivité des forêts gère des bases de données et a recours à des techniques et outils statistiques, y compris des modèles de prévision de la croissance, de la dévitalisation, du rendement et de la qualité des forêts manitobaines. Le Programme fournit les renseignements de base afin de faciliter la projection du rendement soutenu de l'approvisionnement forestier, l'élaboration des plans de gestion provinciaux des forêts et les activités de sylviculture.

- La Section de la foresterie durable travaille en étroite collaboration avec les autres sections de la Direction des forêts afin de veiller à la coordination de questions telles que l'approvisionnement en bois, la qualité de la fibre ligneuse, la gestion des forêts et le mode de tenure forestière. Elle travaille également à rehausser les possibilités forestières dans le contexte de l'utilisation durable des fibres ligneuses et des pratiques de gestion forestière respectueuses de l'environnement

- Le ministère a coordonné les activités liées aux questions de foresterie durable, telles que l'approvisionnement en bois, la qualité de la fibre ligneuse, la gestion des forêts et le mode de tenure forestière, et il a également travaillé à rehausser les possibilités forestières dans le contexte de l'utilisation durable des fibres ligneuses et des pratiques de gestion forestière respectueuses de l'environnement.

2. Participation du public

Pour respecter l'esprit de la ligne directrice n° 2, le ministère doit veiller :
a) à créer des forums pour consulter les Manitobains et les Manitobaines afin qu'ils participent pleinement à la prise de décisions du ministère;
b) à prévoir une procédure équitable, la notification préalable et la réparation satisfaisante et dans des délais raisonnables pour les personnes qui ont eu à subir les conséquences des décisions et des mesures qu'il a adoptées;
c) à mettre tout en oeuvre pour arriver à un consensus entre les particuliers et lui-même sur les décisions qui les concernent.

Exemples d'activité :

- La chasse continue à jouer un rôle important pour les Manitobains et les Manitobaines. Grâce aux 3 700 permis de chasse pour jeunes vendus au Manitoba, notre patrimoine en matière de chasse sera maintenu dans l'avenir.

- Le personnel des régions et des districts a participé à titre de représentants provinciaux des conseils de gestion suivants : Nelson House, Split Lake, York Factory, Norway House et Fox Lake Management Boards, Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board, Wapisu Caribou Committee, Northeast Woodland Caribou Committee et Wapusk National Park Management Board.

- Le ministère a participé au comité de négociation ministériel pour l'établissement des conseils régionaux de gestion des ressources Cree and Island Lake Regional Resource Management Boards, conformément au Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawn Accord.

- Il a consulté les communautés des Premières nations et autochtones situées dans la zone de licence de gestion forestière de Tolko au sujet du plan de renouvellement et d'exploitation forestière de Tolko pour 2009/10 afin de respecter l'obligation du gouvernement de consulter les communautés autochtones et des Premières nations au sujet des décisions ou des mesures gouvernementales qui pourraient enfreindre les droits des Autochtones ou les droits issus des traités ou leur porter atteinte.

- Il a commencé des processus de consultation de la Couronne avec 33 collectivités autochtones en ce qui concerne les plans d'exploitation annuels de 2009/10 établis par Louisiana Pacific et Mountain Quota Holders Association dans la partie forestière et montagneuse.

- Le personnel chargé de la faune a poursuivi ses présentations sur la gestion des orignaux portant sur le déclin des populations d'orignaux auprès de groupes d'utilisateurs locaux et des Premières nations aux alentours du parc provincial du mont Duck et de la forêt provinciale Porcupine.

- Il a terminé ses consultations sur les réserves de parc Amisk et Duff Roblin. La réserve de parc Amisk a été renouvelée pour cinq ans de plus et la réserve de parc Duff Roblin située à l'ouvrage régulateur sud du canal de dérivation a été désignée parc provincial Duff Roblin.

- L'examen du système de droits de service dans les districts de parcs s'est poursuivi en consultation avec les propriétaires de chalets et les exploitants commerciaux qui sont établis dans les parcs provinciaux.

- Parcs Manitoba a continué de fournir une subvention de 5 000 $ à la Manitoba Coalition for Safer Water aux fins de l'éducation du public à la sécurité aquatique, et il a participé au volet sur la prévention des noyades de la stratégie provinciale de prévention des blessures.

- Les patrouilles de sécurité des plages se sont mises en rapport avec plus de 12 500 personnes ayant fréquenté des plages dans trois parcs provinciaux en 2008. Elles ont communiqué avec 5 800 personnes relativement à l'éducation publique des responsabilités en matière de supervision parentale. Cinq sauvetages nautiques ont eu lieu.

- La prestation du programme sur le terrain comprenait deux interprètes à plein temps dans les parcs provinciaux de Birds Hill et de Whiteshell, et 19 interprètes saisonniers. Les programmes ont été présentés dans les parcs provinciaux de Birds Hill, de Grand Beach, d'Hecla-Grindstone, de Lockport, du lac Paint, du chemin River, de Saint-Malo, de Saint-Norbert, de Spruce Woods, de Turtle Mountain et du Whiteshell.

- On a amélioré les programmes Junior Naturalist et Park Explorer destinés aux enfants. On a révisé les livrets pour les parcs provinciaux du Whiteshell, de Spruce Woods, de Birds Hill et d'Hecla/Grindstone. On a élaboré de nouveaux livrets d'activités pour le parc provincial de Grand Beach ainsi qu'un livret général sur les parcs provinciaux du Manitoba à distribuer dans d'autres terrains de camping des parcs provinciaux. Un livret intitulé *Nature Detective* a été élaboré pour les enfants de cinq ans et moins qui les liront avec l'aide de leurs parents ou de leurs frères et sœurs.

- On a fourni des services de secrétariat à la Table ronde manitobaine sur le développement durable, à ses groupes de travail et à ses comités. Présidée par le ministre de la Conservation, la Table ronde est un organisme consultatif du gouvernement provincial qui comprend 26 membres et qui fournit des conseils et un soutien aux décideurs.

3. Accès à l'information

Pour respecter l'esprit de la ligne directrice n° 3, le ministère doit veiller :
a) à améliorer l'information concernant les ressources naturelles et l'environnement sur les plans de l'économie, de l'environnement, de la santé et de la société;
b) à promouvoir un accès équitable et rapide à l'information pour l'ensemble de la population manitobaine.

Exemples d'activité :

- La Bibliothèque de l'environnement et de la conservation a soutenu l'accès à des ressources d'information imprimées et électroniques pour Conservation Manitoba, Gestion des ressources hydriques Manitoba, Environnement Canada à Winnipeg, le Conseil canadien des ministres de l'environnement (CCME) et le public. Des renseignements à jour sur le mandat de chacun des partenaires de la Bibliothèque sont à la disposition du personnel et du public. Au cours de l'exercice 2008-2009, la Bibliothèque a répondu à plus de 3 000 demandes d'information provenant à la fois du personnel et du public.

- Le ministère continue de mettre en œuvre son plan des services en langue française afin de refléter les opérations actuelles et de se conformer au *rapport Chartier* sur les services en langue française. La traduction des documents et du site Web se poursuit, et le ministère continue de participer aux centres de services bilingues.

- Le Service d'information du public a fourni des renseignements au public concernant les nombreux programmes offerts par les ministères de la Conservation et de la Gestion des ressources hydriques. Ce

service a été fourni en personne, par téléphone, par Internet et par courrier, y compris les réponses suivantes aux demandes d'information et d'aide en 2008-2009 :
  - 33 151 demandes directes par téléphone aux agents de renseignements.
  - 30 704 appels ont été reçu par la ligne automatique du Service d'information, dont 10 520 ont été traités directement.
  - 71 966 demandes présentées en personne.
  - 1 261 demandes par l'intermédiaire d'Internet.
  - 5 135 trousses d'information envoyées par la poste.

- On a élaboré et maintenu l'entrepôt de données de l'Initiative de gestion des terres du Manitoba qui donne accès à toutes les données cartographiques géospatiales du gouvernement au grand public et aux organismes gouvernementaux par l'intermédiaire du réseau Internet.

- Le ministère a participé au développement des améliorations apportées au nouveau système de réservation des parcs visant à améliorer sa capacité opérationnelle, a fourni des ordinateurs supplémentaires aux 11 bureaux de terrains de camping et a installé de nouveaux dispositifs automatiques d'inscription sans fil dans plusieurs autres.

- Les membres du public peuvent consulter en ligne toutes les données numériques géospatiales du système d'information géographique (SIG), ainsi que des bases de données et métadonnées connexes et des outils de topographie interactifs. On a terminé les améliorations apportées à l'entrepôt de données de l'Initiative de gestion des terres du Manitoba en 2008-2009. On a procédé à la configuration d'un nouveau serveur de carte interactive afin de fournir un accès ininterrompu aux données pour consultation et téléchargement des produits.

- Le ministère a fourni un soutien au système d'information géographique au personnel de Conservation Manitoba et de Gestion des ressources hydriques Manitoba, ainsi qu'un soutien en matière de cartographie et d'analyse. Le ministère a fourni des services de gestion des projets au ministère de la Gestion des ressources hydriques pour le développement de l'application du système de gestion et de planification (MAPS), et a veillé à la gestion et à la création de modèles altimétriques numériques pour Morden, Rivers et l'Île Rahls.

- Il a continué à travailler à la création du Réseau hydro national pour le Manitoba en coopération avec Ressources naturelles Canada. Il a assuré le maintien de l'entrepôt de données spatiales numériques pour tous les utilisateurs du système d'information géographique de Conservation Manitoba et de Gestion des ressources hydriques.

- La mise à jour des cartes sur les profondeurs des lacs du Manitoba et de l'Ontario se poursuit afin d'inclure les grilles et des coordonnées de Mercator transverse universelles. Cette information est exigée pour les clients qui utilisent à l'heure actuelle des appareils manuels de système de positionnement global. Toutes les cartes sur les profondeurs des lacs sont disponibles imprimées sur du papier ou du papier imperméabilisé.

- Le ministère a mis à jour les sentiers d'interprétation conformément au plan de travail et fournit des programmes d'interprétation personnelle dans 12 parcs provinciaux.

- Il a mis sur pied un nouveau contrat de gestion de la collection des artifacts située dans le parc provincial de Saint-Norbert, qui était auparavant administrée par la Fort Garry Historical Society, la propriétaire des artifacts.

- Il a préparé et distribué un bulletin d'information aux collectivités de la région de planification de l'Est. En plus des mises à jour des initiatives du conseil de gestion des ressources régionales et de l'aménagement des terres traditionnelles, les renseignements comprenaient un complément d'information sur la WNO Planning Initiative, le Eastside Aboriginal Sustainable Tourism Inc., le Wabanong Nakaygum

Okimawin Council of Chiefs Accord and Pimachiowin Aki, le projet de patrimoine mondial auquel ont participé le Manitoba et l'Ontario, les collectivités des Premières nations et les terres traditionnelles de Little Grand Rapids, de Pauingassi, de Poplar River et de Pikangikum, ainsi que les parcs provinciaux Atikaki et Woodland Caribou.

4. Planification et prise de décision intégrées

Pour respecter l'esprit de la ligne directrice n° 4, le ministère doit veiller :

a) à encourager et à faciliter l'adoption et le respect de processus de prise de décision et de planification qui sont efficaces, rapides, fiables et intersectoriels;

b) à adopter une perspective intergénérationnelle sur les besoins à venir et les conséquences dans son processus de prise de décision et dans ses travaux de planification.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le ministère a surveillé l'aménagement de la ligne de transport et des routes associées au projet de Wuskwatim de Manitoba Hydro et il a collaboré avec le personnel de Manitoba Hydro pour aborder et atténuer les problèmes à mesure qu'ils apparaissaient. En particulier, il a offert une aide à la conception de mesures d'atténuation pour les espèces boréales de caribous des bois qui vivent le long du parcours de la ligne de transport.

- La section de la météo a travaillé en étroite collaboration avec le centre des opérations de Manitoba Hydro pour élaborer un système d'avertissement cartographiant la proximité des incendies connus et des zones sensibles MODIS en fonction des lignes de transport d'électricité. Ces rapports de proximité ont permis à Hydro Manitoba d'accéder rapidement aux données opérationnelles et aux cartes sur les incendies à partir de son centre de coordination grâce à des outils courants comme Google Earth.

- Plusieurs échanges d'aéronefs et de personnel ont eu lieu avec l'Ontario, la Saskatchewan, l'Alberta, le Québec et les Territoires-du-Nord-Ouest pendant la saison des incendies du printemps dans le cadre de l'Accord d'aide mutuelle en cas d'incendie de forêt du Centre interservices des feux de forêt du Canada. Ces échanges ont également eu lieu avec le Minnesota dans le cadre de l'entente de coopération transfrontalière (Border Co-operation Agreement).

- Le ministère a établi la zone interprovinciale à l'état naturel du Manitoba et de l'Ontario en juin 2008, respectant ainsi son engagement à l'égard du plan de gestion du parc provincial Atikaki.

- Il a poursuivi sa participation au Programme forestier des Premières nations de Forêts Canada. Une équipe comprenant des organismes des Premières nations, de l'industrie et du gouvernement (fédéral et provincial) offre ce programme qui est financé par le gouvernement fédéral.

- Grâce à une approche stratégique et systématique, le ministère a pu traiter avec les autres gouvernements des questions sur l'environnement et les ressources naturelles et se faire entendre, et jouer un rôle prépondérant au cours des discussions nationales sur la protection environnementale au Canada.

- Il a aidé les municipalités et les districts de planification à préparer des plans d'élaboration et des règlements de zonage en coordonnant la préparation des conseils et des renseignements ministériels concernant la planification, la gestion et l'utilisation des ressources naturelles, et en répondant aux demandes d'études, de cartes et de sommaires statistiques nécessaires à l'allocation pertinente des ressources.

5. Réduction des déchets et substitution

Pour respecter l'esprit de la directive n° 5, le ministère doit veiller :

a) à encourager et à promouvoir, à l'interne et à l'externe, la conception et l'utilisation de produits de substitution pour remplacer des ressources rares lorsque de tels produits de substitution sont viables à la fois sur les plans économique et environnemental;
b) à réduire, à réutiliser, à recycler et à récupérer les produits dont il se sert dans ses activités quotidiennes, et à promouvoir l'application des 4 R dans la société en général.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le 27 juin 2007, une importante tempête de vent a endommagé la forêt dans la partie nord du parc provincial du Whiteshell. Une superficie de 24 000 hectares, soit l'équivalent de presque la moitié de la superficie de la Ville de Winnipeg, a été touchée. On a évalué que les dommages aux ressources forestières s'établissaient à un million de mètres cubes de bois tendre et de bois dur. Le programme régional de récupération mis en œuvre en 2007/08 s'est poursuivi une deuxième année.

- On a récupéré plus de 167 000 mètres cubes de bois sur une superficie de 1 400 hectares de terrains forestiers au cours de l'hiver. Le programme de récupération s'est terminé à la fin de mars. La plupart du bois a été traité et expédié sur le marché.

- Le Programme canadien de gestion des réfrigérants, un organisme national de gestion créé par l'industrie, récupère et élimine les substances appauvrissant la couche d'ozone qui sont périmées ou de surplus. En 2008/09, 1 622 723 kilogrammes de réfrigérants à haute et à basse pression et 1 462 824 kilogrammes de déchets de réfrigérants ont été traités.

- Le ministère a poursuivi son appui au Programme canadien de gestion des réfrigérants, un organisme national de gestion créé par l'industrie, et à son programme complet de gestion des hydrocarbures halogénés qui permet de gérer, de récupérer et d'éliminer les substances appauvrissant la couche d'ozone qui sont périmées ou de surplus. En date du 31 mars 2009, le Programme canadien de gestion des réfrigérants a accepté et a traité 1 622 723 kilogrammes de réfrigérants à haute et à basse pression et 1 462 824 kilogrammes de déchets de réfrigérants.

- L'enregistrement des installations de stockage des déjections du bétail construites avant les exigences réglementaires des permis est obligatoire. Le processus d'enregistrement prévoit un processus d'inspection et d'évaluation régulières du rendement environnemental de ces installations plus anciennes. On a reçu jusqu'à présent, des demandes d'enregistrement d'environ 475 installations de stockage de déjections.

- Des programmes de recyclage ont été mis en œuvre dans les parcs provinciaux de Birds Hill et de Grand Beach.

6. Recherche et innovation

Pour respecter l'esprit de la directive n° 6, le ministère doit veiller :
a) à encourager et à appuyer la recherche, le développement, la mise en application et le partage des connaissances et des technologies qui contribuent à l'amélioration de l'économie, de l'environnement, de la santé et du bien-être social.

Exemples d'activité :

- Les Manitobains et les Manitobaines ont continué d'aider le ministère à mieux comprendre la distribution, l'abondance relative et la conservation des libellules dans la province.

- Conjointement avec Environnement Canada, des représentants provinciaux et territoriaux ainsi que des organisations non gouvernementales, le Manitoba a participé à l'élaboration d'un document portant sur la détermination des habitats essentiels du caribou des bois des régions boréales et continue à participer à l'échelon national aux étapes finales de ce document.

- On a procédé à la cartographie des premières occurrences de tanières d'ours polaires au parc national du Canada Wapusk dans la base de données du Centre de données sur la conservation, en se fondant sur la surveillance aérienne provinciale effectuée dans les années 1970. Cet important ensemble de données de référence permet d'évaluer les effets du changement climatique sur cette espèce menacée.

- En 2008, le ministère a procédé à deux enquêtes sur les ours polaires côtiers. L'enquête menée en juillet après la fonte de la moitié de la glace dans la baie d'Hudson a permis de dénombrer 95 ours polaires. Grâce à l'enquête de septembre, on a dénombré 281 ours polaires le long de la côte entre Churchill et la frontière du Manitoba et de l'Ontario. La distribution des ours polaires le long de la côte était semblable pour les deux enquêtes, ce qui indiquait un faible déplacement des ours pendant la période libre de glaces.

- Le ministère a poursuivi sa participation au Comité canadien du système de référence géodésique du Conseil canadien de géomatique. Le Comité canadien du système de référence géodésique est un comité de travail fédéral-provincial auquel on a confié la planification et la coordination de l'entretien du système de référence géodésique au Canada, ainsi que son amélioration.

- La recherche sur les caribous des bois et leur surveillance se poursuivent afin de permettre d'évaluer les effets industriels liés aux secteurs forestier et minier et aux aménagements d'Hydro Manitoba. Le North West Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee présidé par des membres du personnel de Conservation Manitoba a établi des partenariats de collaboration avec l'industrie qui ont permis de poursuivre le travail sur les évaluations génétiques des troupeaux régionaux et d'effectuer un inventaire détaillé. Il a également eu un effet sur la surveillance du développement de la ligne de transport Wuskawtim et du début des inventaires de base sur la population exigés pour évaluer les répercussions de l'expansion proposée sur l'exploitation forestière.

- Une enquête a été menée sur le terrain de vêlage du troupeau de caribous des toundras Qamanirjuaq pour évaluer la population du troupeau. L'analyse préliminaire des résultats indique que le troupeau a diminué depuis la dernière enquête menée en 1994. Les coûts de l'enquête était partagés, les gouvernements, l'industrie et les organisations non gouvernementales fournissant tous une aide financière; le Manitoba a contribué 100 000 $ (25 % du coût total) pour l'enquête et deux membres du personnel.

- Le projet de recherche Summerberry dans le delta du bras inférieur de la rivière Saskatchewan s'est poursuivi grâce aux enquêtes en détail entreprises par un effectif complet de personnel de recherche sur la productivité des marais par rapport aux techniques de gestion des marais utilisées. Les progrès accomplis concernant cette initiative sont étroitement liés aux travaux du OCN/MC Joint Management of Resources Board.

- Dans le cadre de la Stratégie nationale de lutte contre les ravageurs forestiers, la Section de la santé et du renouvellement des forêts est en train d'effectuer un inventaire des frênes dans les forêts des régions boréales, de la plaine alluvionnaire et des zones urbaines et agricoles. L'objectif est de déterminer l'échelle spatiale, la taille et la valeur des ressources en frênes afin de participer à l'analyse du risque phytosanitaire pouvant être utilisée à l'échelle nationale et de quantifier les effets possibles de l'agrile du frêne sur les provinces des Prairies.

Objectifs d'approvisionnement durable

1. Éducation, formation et sensibilisation

Pour respecter l'esprit de l'objectif n° 1, le ministère devrait faire en sorte qu'une culture favorable aux pratiques d'approvisionnement durable existe au sein de l'organisation :

a) en sensibilisant davantage les ministères, les employés et les vendeurs aux avantages de l'approvisionnement durable;

b) en améliorant les connaissances et les compétences des acheteurs et des utilisateurs.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le ministère a continué ses activités d'éducation et de formation concernant le développement durable. Son personnel chargé de l'approvisionnement doit veiller au respect des principes de durabilité dans toutes les demandes d'achats.

- Le ministère a échangé des renseignements sur l'approvisionnement durable et la politique relative aux bâtiments écologiques avec son personnel, les vendeurs et les entrepreneurs.

- Il a appuyé le développement d'un site Web d'approvisionnement écologique conçu pour les organismes du secteur public du Manitoba.

2. Prévention de la pollution et protection de la santé

Pour respecter l'esprit de l'objectif n° 2, le ministère doit protéger la santé et l'environnement de la population manitobaine contre les effets négatifs possibles de ses activités et il doit offrir un milieu de travail sain et sans danger :

a) en réduisant l'achat et l'utilisation de substances toxiques;
b) en réduisant la quantité de déchets solides envoyés à la décharge et provenant d'installations que le gouvernement manitobain possède ou loue et que le ministère occupe.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le Programme de prévention des incendies est devenu « vert » en ce qui concerne certains articles jetables comme les assiettes de papier, les tasses, les fourchettes, les couteaux et les cuillères dont le personnel des services d'incendie a besoin. Les produits sont à base de pomme de terre, de sucre de canne ou de maïs et sont biodégradables et compostables. La vaisselle lavable ainsi que la coutellerie inoxydable continuent d'être utilisées de façon normale.

- On a envoyé une bouteille d'eau écologique à base de maïs aux équipes de choc pour qu'elles l'essaient. Les équipes de choc et les pompiers surnuméraires utiliseront cette bouteille au lieu de leur bouteille d'eau habituelle. Une fois accepté, le produit permettra de réduire l'utilisation des bouteilles d'eau habituelles et d'établir des exigences relatives à leur recyclage.

- En partenariat avec CropLife Canada, l'Association canadienne des distributeurs agricoles, la Manitoba Producers Association, Agriculture, Alimentation et Initiatives rurales Manitoba et Conservation Manitoba, le ministère a accordé son soutien à un programme de collecte de pesticides périmés permettant aux producteurs agricoles, aux serres, aux pépinières et aux terrains de golf de se débarrasser de façon sûre de leurs pesticides périmés ou indésirables auprès de sites de collecte situés chez des distributeurs agricoles dans toute la province. Au total, 51 158 kilogrammes de pesticides agricoles périmés et indésirables ont été rassemblés et détruits par incinération à haute température.

3. Réduction des émissions de combustibles fossiles

Pour respecter l'esprit de l'objectif n° 3, le ministère doit réduire les émissions de combustibles fossiles découlant de ses activités :

a) en réduisant à la fois la consommation et les émissions de carburants pour véhicules;
b) en augmentant l'utilisation de carburants mélangés à de l'éthanol et en recourant à de nouvelles sources d'énergie pour remplacer les combustibles traditionnels.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le ministère a continué d'encourager le recours à un carburant à l'éthanol, chaque fois que c'était possible.

- Le ministère a continué d'utiliser des véhicules hybrides lorsque cela était indiqué.

4. Conservation des ressources

Pour respecter l'esprit de l'objectif n° 4, le ministère doit réduire l'utilisation et la consommation des ressources d'une manière durable et favorable à l'environnement :

a) en réduisant la consommation totale annuelle de services publics dont le gaz naturel, l'électricité, le propane, le mazout et l'eau utilisés dans tous les bâtiments et locaux qu'il occupe et que le gouvernement du Manitoba possède ou loue;
b) dans le contexte de l'utilisation limitée des ressources, en augmentant la proportion de produits et de services à privilégier dont il se sert.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le ministère a amélioré la lagune du parc provincial du Whiteshell, au lac West Hawk, et il a construit un réservoir provisoire de rétention des eaux usées dans le parc provincial d'Hecla/Grindstone en attendant l'approbation environnementale d'une lagune de traitement des eaux usées permanente.

- Le ministère a poursuivi ses visites d'inspection dans les bâtiments dont il est propriétaire ainsi que l'élaboration d'exigences minimales réalistes en vue de travaux de modernisation écoénergétiques. Des clauses standard tenant compte de l'approvisionnement durable figurent sur toutes les demandes d'achat, comme le prévoit le manuel des contrats (*Contract Manual*) du ministère.

- Le ministère a prolongé la durée de vie de l'infrastructure des parcs provinciaux et accru les possibilités de loisirs en améliorant les installations des parcs et en aménageant de nouvelles installations. Il a amélioré la protection de l'environnement dans les parcs provinciaux en construisant et en installant des équipements appropriés pour l'épuration des eaux, le traitement des eaux usées et l'élimination des déchets.

- Le camp du ministère à Cape Churchill, Nestor One, a reçu 82 000 $ de la part du Fonds pour l'infrastructure de recherche dans l'Arctique, créé par le gouvernement fédéral (Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada) afin de moderniser des installations de recherche essentielles dans l'Arctique. Les fonds serviront à agrandir les installations, à réparer les immeubles existants et à construire plusieurs nouvelles structures, dont des châteaux d'eau et des tours d'observation.

5. Développement économique communautaire

Pour respecter l'esprit de l'objectif n° 5, le ministère doit veiller à ce que ses pratiques d'approvisionnement favorisent et appuient le développement économique communautaire :

a) en augmentant la participation des populations et des fournisseurs autochtones pour qu'ils répondent à ses besoins en matière de biens et de services;
b) en contribuant au développement et à l'essor des industries environnementales locales et à l'accroissement des débouchés commerciaux des produits et services à privilégier;
c) en augmentant la participation des petites entreprises, des entreprises communautaires et des coopératives à son approvisionnement.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le ministère a poursuivi ses efforts en vue de s'approvisionner davantage auprès des Autochtones et des administrations locales, et d'appuyer ainsi le développement économique communautaire dans le contexte de la politique de marchés publics du gouvernement.

- Il a continué d'offrir son programme de lots pour chalets, qui permet aux Manitobains et aux Manitobaines d'obtenir un lot pour construire un chalet. Les nouvelles constructions rehaussent la qualité de vie des citoyens en leur offrant la possibilité de profiter de la beauté naturelle de la province, tout en offrant des avantages économiques aux collectivités et municipalités environnantes.

- Le ministère a continué à faire des améliorations dans le cadre de l'initiative provinciale de développement des emplacements de camping. Il a apporté des améliorations importantes aux campings du lac West Hawk et de Toniata dans le parc provincial du Whiteshell, et il a ajouté l'accès au service électrique dans une baie d'un camping du parc provincial de Turtle Mountain. Il a commencé la construction d'un agrandissement majeur au camping du lac Wellman dans le parc provincial de Duck Mountain. Il a également commencé la construction de yourtes aux parcs provinciaux de Stephenfield et de Camp Morton, ainsi que de chalets familiaux au parc provincial d'Hecla.

- La chasse par les non-résidents continue d'être une activité importante dans la région du Nord-Est, le ministère ayant alloué 212 permis de chasse à l'orignal, 745 permis de chasse à l'ours et 440 permis de chasse au caribou à 58 pourvoyeurs et opérateurs de camps de chasse.

- Le lac Whitewater, une destination réputée d'observation des oiseaux, continue d'attirer les visiteurs du monde entier. Le personnel a commencé à travailler sur des projets d'observation de la faune au lac Whitewater et dans la zone de gestion de la faune Gerald Malaher près de Melita.

- La Direction des forêts et l'industrie ont effectué des traitements visant la régénération forestière, y compris des traitements de reprise, sur plus de 9 881 hectares de forêt. On a planté dans la majeure partie de cette région environ 14,2 millions d'arbres livrés grâce à des contrats ordinaires ayant fait l'objet d'appels d'offres et d'autres sans appels d'offre ayant été négociés avec les entreprises des Premières nations.

- La Section de la foresterie durable a continué de collaborer avec diverses collectivités de la province qui étaient intéressées à établir des entreprises forestières, telles que des scieries ou des entreprises de construction de maisons en bois rond.

- Le ministère a participé au comité de gestion chargé de l'Initiative d'alimentation saine dans le Nord. Cette initiative réunit plusieurs ministères dont Affaires autochtones et du Nord, Agriculture, Alimentation et Initiatives rurales, Santé et Conservation, et elle vise à promouvoir les choix alimentaires sains et à appuyer le développement de sources de nourriture locales dans les régions du nord du Manitoba.

Revenue and Expenditure Summaries

Table RE.1
Reconciliation Statement

DETAILS	2008/09 ESTIMATES
2008/09 MAIN ESTIMATES	**$ 123,076**
Main Estimates Authority Transferred From:	
- Enabling Appropriation	**578**
2008/09 ESTIMATE	**$ 123,654**

Table RE.2

Revenue Summary by Source

For the year ended March 31, 2009 with comparative figures for the previous year

Actual		Increase		Actual	Estimate	Variance	Expl.
2007/08	2008/09	(Decrease)	Source	2008/09	2008/09		No.
			OTHER REVENUE:				
0	0	0	Clean Environment Commission Cost Recovery	0	0	0	
288	646	358	Cottaging Initiative	646	3,176	(2,530)	1.
618	598	(20)	Environment Fees and Sundry	598	508	90	
6,822	4,939	(1,883)	Forestry Fees and Sundry	4,939	6,147	(1,208)	2.
1,915	1,756	(159)	Land Information Sales and Fees	1,756	1,827	(71)	
4,020	3,799	(221)	Licence Sales by Vendors	3,799	3,947	(148)	
10,896	11,708	812	Parks Fees	11,708	12,557	(849)	
6,741	5,428	(1,313)	Regional Operations Fees and Cost Recovery	5,428	4,944	484	3.
479	494	15	Wildlife Sundry	494	636	(142)	
388	286	(102)	Sundry	286	341	(55)	
32,167	**29,654**	**(2,513)**	**Subtotal**	**29,654**	**34,083**	**(4,429)**	
			GOVERNMENT OF CANADA:				
151	151	0	(a) Migratory Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Agreement	151	151	0	
1,686	178	(1,506)	(b) Softwood Lumber Agreement	178	1,900	(1,722)	4.
0	0	0	(c) Ortho Photo Refresh Project - PFRA	0	75	(75)	
0	50	50	(d) Ash Inventory and Emerald Ash Borer Risk Assessment	0	0	50	
1,837	**379**	**(1,458)**	**Subtotal**	**379**	**2,126**	**(1,747)**	
34,004	**30,033**	**(3,971)**	**Total**	**30,033**	**36,209**	**(6,176)**	
60	0	60	Sale of Government Assets	0	0	0	

Explanation Number:

1. Revenue recognition was deferred, as fewer lots were completed to lock up stage.
2. Lower forestry revenue due to lower harvesting and reduced rates as a result of poor market conditions.
3. Increased fire suppression cost recovery for out of province fire fighting activity.
4. Lower export taxes were collected due to lower demand exports to the U.S. and low lumber prices.

Table RE.3

Expenditure Summary

For fiscal year ended March 31, 2009 with comparative figures for the previous year.

Estimate 2008/09	Appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Actual 2007/08	Increase (Decrease)	Expl. No.
	12-1 Administration and Finance				
45	(a) Minister's Salary	45	42	3	
	(b) Executive Support				
640	Salaries and Employee Benefits	649	578	70	
179	Other Expenditures	130	117	13	
	(c) Corporate Services				
1,065	Salaries and Employee Benefits	986	910	77	
1,476	Other Expenditures	1,405	1,503	(98)	
	(d) Financial Services				
1,370	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,317	1,246	70	
390	Other Expenditures	426	422	4	
	(e) Human Resource Services				
1,447	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,110	1,029	81	
185	Other Expenditures	163	160	3	
	(f) Information Technology Services				
1,271	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,151	1,247	(96)	
187	Other Expenditures	188	87	102	
	(g) Clean Environment Commission				
283	Salaries and Employee Benefits	306	276	30	
330	Other Expenditures	134	603	(469)	1.
8,868	**Total 12-1**	**8,010**	**8,220**	**(210)**	
	12-2 Conservation Support Services				
	(a) Computer Graphics				
381	Salaries and Employee Benefits	310	405	(95)	
33	Other Expenditures	25	33	(8)	
	(b) Survey Services				
1,574	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,329	1,341	(12)	
443	Other Expenditures	432	416	16	
(1,571)	Less: Recoveries from other appropriations	(1,379)	(1,460)	80	
	(c) Distribution Centre				
346	Salaries and Employee Benefits	364	377	(13)	
328	Other Expenditures	266	295	(28)	
(50)	Less: Recoverable from other appropriations	(17)	(31)	15	
399	(d) Seasonal Support	355	361	(6)	
1,883	**Total 12-2**	**1,685**	**1,737**	**(53)**	
	12-3 Regional Operations				
	(a) Regional Support Services				
2,373	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,630	2,245	385	
1,525	Other Expenditures	1,480	1,563	(83)	
243	Problem Wildlife Control	267	223	44	
	(b) Northwest Region				
2,210	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,123	2,237	(114)	
857	Other Expenditures	838	839	(1)	
	(c) Northeast Region				
2,719	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,806	2,619	187	
1,171	Other Expenditures	1,162	1,222	(60)	

Estimate 2008/09	Appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Actual 2007/08	Increase (Decrease)	Expl. No.
	(d) Central Region				
5,631	Salaries and Employee Benefits	5,416	5,724	(308)	
2,036	Other Expenditures	1,961	1955	6	
	(e) Eastern Region				
4,462	Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,376	4,079	297	
1,110	Other Expenditures	1,102	1,067	35	
	(f) Western Region				
4,663	Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,708	4,571	137	
1,569	Other Expenditures	1,495	1,458	37	
	(g) Park Operations and Maintenance				
13,237	Salaries and Employee Benefits	13,651	13,164	487	
6,269	Other Expenditures	6,259	6,028	231	
(472)	Less: Recoverable from Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(472)	(440)	(32)	
	(h) Fire and Emergency Response Program				
6,447	Salaries and Employee Benefits	6,376	6,248	128	
10,426	Other Expenditures	10,128	9,615	513	
(500)	Less: Recoverable from Emergency Expenditures	(410)	(433)	23	
	(i) Environmental Services				
	(1) Livestock Operations				
628	Salaries and Employee Benefits	347	323	24	
1,083	Other Expenditures	480	373	107	
	(2) Environmental Operations				
835	Salaries and Employee Benefits	621	623	(2)	
660	Other Expenditures	534	146	388	
69,182	**Total 12-3**	**67,878**	**65,449**	**2,429**	
	12-4 Conservation Programs				
	(a) Divisional Administration				
183	Salaries and Employee Benefits	160	152	8	
389	Other Expenditures	368	431	(63)	
	(b) Wildlife Enhancement Initiative				
225	Other Expenditures	212	224	(12)	
	(c) Parks and Natural Areas				
1,663	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,561	1,612	(51)	
1,487	Other Expenditures	1,421	1,806	(384)	1.
469	Grant Assistance	469	264	206	
	(d) Forestry				
4,545	Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,956	4,759	197	
5,861	Other Expenditures	9,653	4,954	4,700	2.
23	Grant Assistance	23	23	0	
1,001	Forest Regeneration Stock	911	1,353	(442)	3.
(1,325)	Less: Recoverable from Urban and Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(1,102)	(1,275)	172	
50	(e) Habitat Enhancement Fund	60	50	10	
	(f) Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection				
2,116	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,179	2,280	(101)	
1,243	Other Expenditures	1,233	1,107	126	
996	Grant Assistance	995	937	58	
354	Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement	327	315	12	

Estimate 2008/09	Appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Actual 2007/08	Increase (Decrease)	Expl. No.
250	(g) Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund	193	164	29	
	(h) Lands and Geomatics				
1,483	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,503	1,468	35	
3,952	Other Expenditures	3,398	3,347	51	
(24)	Less: Recoverable from other appropriations	0	0	0	
24,912	**Total 12-4**	**28,521**	**23,970**	**4,551**	
	12-5 Environmental Stewardship				
	(a) Divisional Administration				
186	Salaries and Employee Benefits	183	171	12	
61	Other Expenditures	33	40	(7)	
	(b) Sustainable Resource Management				
1,044	Salaries and Employee Benefits	977	983	(6)	
235	Other Expenditures	160	183	(23)	
145	Grant Assistance	138	127	11	
	(c) Corporate Crown Land Policy Unit				
260	Salaries and Employee Benefits	169	129	40	
28	Other Expenditures	12	14	(2)	
	(d) Environmental Assessment and Licensing				
1,420	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,389	1,199	190	
277	Other Expenditures	202	236	(34)	
	(e) Aboriginal Relations				
506	Salaries and Employee Benefits	446	456	(10)	
186	Other Expenditures	175	179	(5)	
250	Northern Initiatives	77	368	(292)	
1,075	(f) Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin	799	830	(32)	
	(g) Protected Areas				
280	Salaries and Employee Benefits	265	228	37	
193	Other Expenditures	46	66	(21)	
530	Grant Assistance	3,660	430	3,230	4.
	(h) Pollution Prevention				
307	Salaries and Employee Benefits	317	366	(49)	
92	Other Expenditures	95	439	(345)	
	(i) Air Quality				
297	Salaries and Employee Benefits	306	240	66	
67	Other Expenditures	63	58	5	
7,437	**Total 12-5**	**9,511**	**6,744**	**2,767**	
1,196	12-6 International Institute for Sustainable Development	1,196	1,196	0	
1,196	**Total 12-6**	**1,196**	**1,196**	**0**	
	12-7 Minor Capital Projects				
430	(a) Equipment	413	328	85	
120	(b) Critical Heritage Marshes	124	120	4	
2,369	(c) Park Facilities	2,045	2,016	29	
750	(d) Cottaging and Camping Initiatives	754	763	(9)	
3,670	**Total 12-7**	**3,336**	**3,227**	**109**	

Estimate 2008/09	Appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Actual 2007/08	Increase (Decrease)	Expl. No.
	12-8 Costs Related to Capital Assets				
	(a) Desktop Services				
131	(1) Amortization Expense	0	131	(131)	
219	(2) Enterprise Software Licenses	219	219	0	
	(b) General Assets				
1,282	(1) Amortization Expense	1,300	1,389	(89)	
443	(2) Interest Expense	436	503	(67)	
	(c) Infrastructure Assets				
2,341	(1) Amortization Expense	2,135	2,025	110	
2,092	(2) Interest Expense	2,229	2,298	(69)	
6,507	**Total 12-8**	**6,319**	**6,564**	**(245)**	
123,654	**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**	**126,456**	**117,107**	**9,349**	

Estimate 2008/09	Appropriation	Actual 2008/09	Actual 2007/08	Increase (Decrease)	Expl. No.
	B.12 Capital Investment				
600	(a) General Assets	1,236	1,125	111	
	(b) Infrastructure Assets				
5,465	(1) Parks Infrastructure Projects	4,041	4,752	(711)	
2,425	(2) Camping Improvements	1,904	1,162	742	
1,821	(3) Cottage Lots Development	1,194	3,558	(2,364)	5.
10,311	**TOTAL B.12 CAPITAL INVESTMENT**	**8,375**	**10,597**	**(2,222)**	

Explanations:

1. The decrease of ($338) was due to Parks District Service Fee project implementation costs paid in 2007/08.
2. The increase of $4,700 in 2008/09 expenditures was due to compensation costs associated with phasing out of logging in provincial parks and seedling assistance.
3. The decrease of ($442) in 2008/09 Forest Regeneration expenditures was due to reduced seedling orders as a result of the transfer of Forest Renewal obligations for Western Region.
4. The increase of $3,230 in 2008/09 was due to increased grant assistance paid to The Nature Conservancy of Canada in support of establishment of protected habitat corridors $3,100 and to Pimachiowin Aki Corporation in support of the UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination $130.
5. The decrease of ($2,364) in 2008/09 was due to decrease in cottage lot and road development activities.

Table RE.4

Five Year Expenditure and Staffing Summary by Appropriation

For year ending March 31, 2005 – March 31, 2009*

	2004/05		2005/06		2006/07		2007/08		2008/09	
	FTEs	**$(000)**	**FTEs**	**$(000)**	**FTEs**	**$(000)**	**FTEs**	**$(000)**	**FTEs**	**$(000)**
Administration and Finance	83.33	7,463	85.33	7,305	85.33	8,110	86.33	8,220	87.33	8,010
Conservation Support Services	45.00	1,203	44.00	1,249	40.00	1,474	39.50	1,737	39.50	1,685
Regional Operations	669.16	56,396	660.57	59,019	688.57	63,752	700.47	65,449	703.47	67,878
Conservation Programs	156.85	20,316	154.35	21,494	141.35	23,192	140.89	23,970	143.27	28,521
Environmental Stewardship	58.00	5,682	57.00	5,725	54.00	5,840	58.00	6,744	59.00	9,511
International Institute for Sustainable Development		1,031		1,146		1,196		1,196		1,196
Minor Capital Projects		4,777		3,621		3,556		3,227		3,336
Costs Related to Capital Assets		5,242		5,441		5,974		6,564		6,319
Total Appropriations	**1,012.34**	**102,110**	**1,001.25**	**105,000**	**1,009.25**	**113,094**	**1,025.19**	**117,107**	**1,032.57**	**126,456**

*Adjusted figures reflect historical date on a comparable basis in those appropriations affected by re-organization, during the years under review.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING TABLE

The following section provides information on key performance measures for the department for the 2008/09 reporting year. All Government of Manitoba departments include performance measures in their Annual Reports to complement the financial results and provide Manitobans with meaningful and useful information about government activities and their impact on the province and its citizens.

For more information on performance reporting and the Manitoba government, visit www.manitoba.ca/performance

Your comments on performance measures are valuable to us. You can send comments or questions to mbperformance@gov.mb.ca.

What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)	***Why is it important to measure this? (B)***	***Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)? (C)***	***What is the 2008/09 result (current year) or most recent available data? (D)***	***What is the trend over time? (E)***	***Comments/ recent actions/ report links (F)***
The change in availability of wilderness-experience recreation opportunities for Manitobans by measuring • number of improved campsites made available in the year	It is important to measure the expansion of available wilderness recreation opportunities, represented by new campsites because the ability to enjoy wilderness recreation is important to Manitobans. For many, the relative affordability of cottage properties is a major reason why Manitoba remains attractive as a place to live.	The baseline measure for this is 2004/05. In 2004/05, there were 225 improved campsites made available to Manitobans.	In 2008/09, there were 16 improved campsites, 64 new electrical campsites, 17 refurbished rental cabins and the 2 new cabins that were begun the previous year were completed, for a total of 99 improvements within Manitoba Provincial Parks.	From 2004/05 through 2008/09, a total of 769 camping improvements were implemented.	The Province has made significant commitments with respect to increasing camping and cottaging opportunities for Manitobans. For further information on recreational opportunities for Manitobans, please see the relevant section of the report

What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)	***Why is it important to measure this? (B)***	***Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)? (C)***	***What is the 2008/09 result (current year) or most recent available data? (D)***	***What is the trend over time? (E)***	***Comments/ recent actions/ report links (F)***
The increase in the number of cottage lots being made available to Manitobans each Year measured by: • Number of new Cottage lots made Available in the year.	Providing more Cottaging opportunities is a priority of government and important to Manitobans. Manitobans benefit from enhanced economic development opportunities in areas with increasing cottage visitors, including tourist visits. For Manitobans, increased wilderness recreation also contributes to quality of life and healthy living, as they participate in hiking, cycling, paddling and swimming that usually go along with spending time in these areas.	The baseline measure for this is 2004/05. In 2004/05, 576 cottage lots were made available to Manitobans as part of the provincial commitment for 1,000 new cottage lots.	In 2008/09, no new cottage lots were made available. The extensive planning and review processes for new cottage subdivision development proposals continued throughout 2008/09.	Since 2004/05, 1,003 cottage lots have been made available to Manitoban as part of the provincial commitment of 1,000 new cottage lots.	For further information on recreational opportunities for Manitobans, please see the relevant section of the report

What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)	***Why is it important to measure this? (B)***	***Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)? (C)***	***What is the 2008/09 result (current year) or most recent available data? (D)***	***What is the trend over time? (E)***	***Comments/ recent actions/ report links (F)***
Our progress toward expanding our network of protected areas, by measuring hectares of protected land in Manitoba.	Protected areas are important because they help ensure conservation of biodiversity, maintain natural cycles, provide pristine areas and preserve land for Aboriginal people to maintain their traditional activities. Measuring the growth in protected areas will tell us how well we are meeting our goal for protected lands that represent the biodiversity in each of Manitoba's natural regions.	The baseline measure for this is 350,000 hectares in 1990, when the Protected Areas Initiative began.	Currently, 5,478,000 hectares or 8.4% of Manitoba is protected, including two national parks, 22 ecological reserves, all or parts of 43 provincial parks and interim protected park reserves, all or parts of 48 wildlife management areas, 2 areas designated under *The Forest Act*, and various parcels of private land owned by a conservation agency.	Since 1990, when the Protected Areas Initiative began, the area of protected lands has increased from 350,000 hectares to 5,478,000 hectares in 2009.	Duff Roblin and New Duff Roblin Park Reserves were replaced by Duff Roblin Provincial Park, reducing the total number of protected provincial parks and interim protected park reserves. For further information on Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative, please see the relevant section of the report.

What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)	***Why is it important to measure this? (B)***	***Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)? (C)***	***What is the 2008/09 result (current year) or most recent available data? (D)***	***What is the trend over time? (E)***	***Comments/ recent actions/ report links (F)***
Security of communities and of forestry-related economic development in high priority forested areas, by measuring the number of fires found to be caused with human intervention.	Protection of people, property and the surrounding forested areas helps contribute to viable communities in these areas that are primarily in the North.	The baseline measure for this is 2007/08 when there were 77 fires reported of which 49 were caused by human activity.	In 2008/09 there were 323 fires reported of which 221 were caused by human activity.	Although more data is still necessary to identify a trend, tracking the number of human caused fires enables the Department to focus on educational activities to affect a downward trend in the future. The risk of forest fire varies from year to year, primarily due to weather conditions. Although the primary original causes of forest fires include human activities and lightning strikes, the severity and impact of forest fires is mainly dependent on how wet or dry the conditions are at the time.	This measure has changed from last year as it better reflects what is under the department's control to manage. For further information on the Fire Program, please see the relevant section of the report.

What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)	***Why is it important to measure this? (B)***	***Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)? (C)***	***What is the 2008/09 result (current year) or most recent available data? (D)***	***What is the trend over time? (E)***	***Comments/ recent actions/ report links (F)***
Environmental protection as a result of remediation and impacted and contaminated sites for which government is responsible. Indicator is the recorded value of environmental liabilities.	Contaminated and impacted sites may be harmful to human health and/or the environment. Any reduction in the total liability amount as a result of assessment and remediation activities would reflect an increase in environmental protection (a cleaner and healthier environment).	Baseline is 2006/07. Recorded value of environmental liabilities was $167 million as of April 1, 2006.	Recorded value of environmental liability is $540 million as of March 31, 2009.	Recorded value of environmental liabilities increased through March 31, 2009 as the initial phase of the program focused on the identification and assessment of remediation costs. The next phase of the program will focus on remediation of priority sites. Over time, liabilities should decrease as sites are remediated, and environmental protection (a cleaner environment) should increase as a result.	This is a new measure that addresses the Department's priority on environmental protection

What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)	***Why is it important to measure this? (B)***	***Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)? (C)***	***What is the 2008/09 result (current year) or most recent available data? (D)***	***What is the trend over time? (E)***	***Comments/ recent actions/ report links (F)***
Opportunities to work together on resource management and resource based initiatives. The number of co-management agreements and/or resource management boards established.	It will help tell us how we are meeting our priority goal of building relationships with Aboriginal people.	The baseline for this is the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) that were signed in 2000/01. There is one MOU signed with the Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN).	One agreement signed with Poplar River First Nation - Land Management agreement. Three WNO Regional Resource Management agreements were initiated and are still under negotiation.	Support for and the number of co-management / resource management agreements is increasing.	This is a new measure to address the Department's priority on reconciling our relationship with First Nations and other Aboriginal communities.

Tableau d'information sur le rendement

La section ci-dessous fournit de l'information sur certaines mesures clés de performance relativement aux activités du ministère pendant l'année 2008-2009. L'ensemble des ministères du gouvernement du Manitoba font état de mesures de performance dans leurs rapports annuels pour ajouter aux données sur les résultats financiers et mettre à la disposition des Manitobains et Manitobaines des renseignements valables et utiles sur les activités du gouvernement et leurs retombées pour la province et sa population.

Pour de plus amples informations quant aux rapports sur la performance et au gouvernement du Manitoba, veuillez consulter le site: www.gov.mb.ca/finance/performance.fr.html

Nous apprécions beaucoup vos commentaires sur les mesures de performance. N'hésitez pas à nous transmettre vos observations ou questions à l'adresse : mbperformance@gov.mb.ca

Que mesure-t-on et quel indicateur utilise-t-on? (A)	***Importance de l'indicateur (B)***	***Quel est le point de départ (mesure de base)? (C)***	***Quels sont les résultats pour 2008/09 (exercice en cours) ou quelles sont les données disponibles les plus récentes? (D)***	***Quelle est la tendance avec le temps? (E)***	***Commentaires, mesures récentes ou liens (F)***
La modification des possibilités de loisirs dans un milieu sauvage pour la population manitobaine, en calculant ce qui suit : • le nombre de sites de camping améliorés mis en service dans l'année;	Il convient de mesurer l'augmentation des possibilités de loisirs en milieu sauvage, représentée par le nombre de nouveaux emplacements de camping, parce que la capacité de pratiquer des loisirs en milieu sauvage est importante pour la population manitobaine. Pour beaucoup, l'abordabilité relative des terrains pour chalets est une raison majeure pour laquelle le Manitoba demeure un lieu de résidence attrayant.	Pour cet indicateur, le point de référence est l'année 2004/05. En 2004/05, 225 emplacements de camping améliorés ont été mis à la disposition du public.	En 2008/09, 16 emplacements de camping améliorés, 64 nouveaux emplacements dotés de l'électricité, 17 chalets à louer rénovés et 2 nouveaux chalets dont la construction avait commencé l'année dernière ont été mis en service, pour un total de 99 améliorations dans les parcs provinciaux du Manitoba.	De 2004/05 à 2008/09, le gouvernement a apporté un total de 769 améliorations en matière de camping.	La Province a fait des efforts notables pour favoriser le développement des possibilités de camping et de séjour en chalet pour les Manitobains et Manitobaines. Pour plus d'information sur les possibilités récréatives qui s'offrent à la population manitobaine, veuillez vous reporter à la section pertinente du rapport.

Que mesure-t-on et quel indicateur utilise-t-on? (A)	***Importance de l'indicateur (B)***	***Quel est le point de départ (mesure de base)? (C)***	***Quels sont les résultats pour 2008/09 (exercice en cours) ou quelles sont les données disponibles les plus récentes? (D)***	***Quelle est la tendance avec le temps? (E)***	***Commentaires, mesures récentes ou liens (F)***
L'augmentation du nombre de lots pour chalets offerts aux Manitobains chaque année calculée à l'aide : • du nombre de nouveaux lots pour chalets offerts dans l'année.	Offrir plus de possibilités de séjour en chalet est une priorité du gouvernement et cela est important pour les Manitobains. La population de la province bénéficie de débouchés économiques accrus dans les régions où augmente la fréquentation des chalets, y compris par des touristes. Pour les Manitobains et Manitobaines, l'augmentation des loisirs en milieu sauvage contribue aussi à la qualité de vie et à la vie saine, puisque cela contribue à la pratique de sports comme la randonnée, le cyclisme, le canotage et la natation, des activités qui se pratiquent habituellement dans ce genre d'environnement.	Pour cet indicateur, le point de référence est l'exercice 2004/05. En 2004/05, 576 nouveaux lots pour chalets ont été proposés à la population manitobaine dans le cadre de l'engagement du gouvernement provincial en faveur de la création de 1 000 nouveaux lots.	En 2008/09, aucun nouveau lot pour chalet n'a été mis à la disposition du public. Le long processus de planification et d'examen requis pour la rédaction d'une proposition de nouveau lotissement pour chalets s'est poursuivi pendant tout l'exercice 2008/09.	Depuis 2004/05, 1003 nouveaux lots pour chalets ont été proposés à la population manitobaine dans le cadre de l'engagement du gouvernement provincial en faveur de la création de 1000 nouveaux lots.	Pour plus d'information sur les possibilités récréatives qui s'offrent à la population manitobaine, veuillez vous reporter à la section pertinente du rapport.

Que mesure-t-on et quel indicateur utilise-t-on? (A)	***Importance de l'indicateur (B)***	***Quel est le point de départ (mesure de base)? (C)***	***Quels sont les résultats pour 2008/09 (exercice en cours) ou quelles sont les données disponibles les plus récentes? (D)***	***Quelle est la tendance avec le temps? (E)***	***Commentaires, mesures récentes ou liens (F)***
Nos progrès dans l'agrandissement de notre réseau de zones protégées, en calculant le nombre d'hectares de terres protégées au Manitoba.	Les zones protégées sont importantes parce qu'elles aident à préserver la biodiversité, à maintenir les cycles naturels, à conserver des régions vierges et à préserver des terres pour que les Autochtones puissent poursuivre leurs activités traditionnelles. En mesurant l'augmentation de l'étendue des zones protégées, nous pouvons savoir si nous atteignons nos objectifs de protection de terres représentatives de la biodiversité dans chacune des régions naturelles du Manitoba.	Pour cet indicateur, le point de référence est le suivant : 350 000 hectares en 1990, lors du lancement de l'Initiative des zones protégées.	À l'heure actuelle, 5 478 000 hectares (8,4 % de la superficie du Manitoba) sont protégés. Cette superficie comprend 2 parcs nationaux, 22 réserves écologiques, la totalité ou des sections de 43 parcs provinciaux et réserves protégées temporairement aux fins de création de parcs, la totalité ou des sections de 48 zones de gestion de la faune, 2 zones désignées en vertu de la *Loi sur les forêts* et diverses parcelles de terres privées qui appartiennent à un organisme de conservation.	Au début de l'Initiative des zones protégées en 1990, la superficie des terres protégées était de 350 000 hectares. En 2009, elle était de 5 478 000 hectares.	La réserve de parc Duff-Roblin et la nouvelle réserve de parc Duff-Roblin ont été remplacées par le parc provincial Duff-Roblin, réduisant de ce fait le nombre total de parcs provinciaux et de réserves protégées temporairement aux fins de création de parcs. Pour plus d'information sur l'Initiative des zones protégées du Manitoba, veuillez vous reporter à la section pertinente du rapport.

Que mesure-t-on et quel indicateur utilise-t-on? (A)	***Importance de l'indicateur (B)***	***Quel est le point de départ (mesure de base)? (C)***	***Quels sont les résultats pour 2008/09 (exercice en cours) ou quelles sont les données disponibles les plus récentes? (D)***	***Quelle est la tendance avec le temps? (E)***	***Commentaires, mesures récentes ou liens (F)***
La sécurité des communautés et du développement économique lié à la foresterie dans les régions forestières à haute priorité, en mesurant le nombre d'incendies découlant d'une intervention humaine.	La protection des personnes, des biens et des régions forestières environnantes contribue à la viabilité des collectivités de ces régions, qui sont principalement situées dans le Nord.	La mesure de base est celle de 2007/08, où il y a eu 77 incendies répertoriés, 49 ayant été causés par une activité humaine.	En 2008/09, 0,645 % de la superficie de la zone forestière ayant la plus haute priorité en matière de protection (zone rouge) a brûlé, à cause de 2 incendies d'envergure. En 2008/09, il y a eu 323 incendies, brûlant un total de 104 226 ha. De l'ensemble de ces incendies, 221 avaient pour origine une activité humaine.	En effectuant un suivi des incendies d'origine humaine, le ministère pourrait mettre l'accent sur des activités éducatives qui permettraient de réduire le nombre d'incendies à l'avenir et d'amorcer une tendance à la baisse. Le risque de feux de forêt varie d'année en année, principalement en raison des conditions météorologiques. Même si les causes principales des feux de forêt sont notamment les activités humaines et la foudre, la gravité et les conséquences des incendies dépendent principalement des conditions du moment (degré de sécheresse ou d'humidité).	Cette mesure a changé par rapport à l'année dernière, car elle reflète mieux ce que le ministère a le pouvoir de gérer. Pour plus d'information sur le Programme de prévention des incendies, veuillez vous reporter à la section pertinente du rapport.

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La protection environnementale découlant de l'assainissement des sites contaminés ou perturbés dont le gouvernement est responsable. L'indicateur est la valeur enregistrée des responsabilités environnementales.	Les sites contaminés et perturbés peuvent être nocifs à la santé humaine ou à l'environnement. Toute réduction du montant total de la responsabilité environnementale, de par la conduite d'activités d'évaluation ou d'assainissement, se traduira par une augmentation de la protection environnementale (un environnement plus propre et plus sain).	Le point de référence est l'exercice 2006/07. La valeur enregistrée des responsabilités environnementales était de 167 millions de dollars au 1er avril 2006.	La valeur enregistrée des responsabilités environnementales était de 540 millions de dollars au 31 mars 2009.	La valeur enregistrée des responsabilités environnementales a augmenté jusqu'au 31 mars 2009, du fait que la phase initiale du programme était axée sur la détermination et l'évaluation des coûts d'assainissement. La prochaine étape du programme mettra l'accent sur l'assainissement des sites prioritaires. Avec le temps, les responsabilités environnementales devraient diminuer, au fur et à mesure de l'assainissement des sites, et la protection de l'environnement (un environnement plus propre) devrait par conséquent s'accroître.	Il s'agit d'une nouvelle mesure qui reflète l'importance que le ministère accorde à la protection de l'environnement.

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Possibilités de travailler ensemble à la gestion des ressources et dans le cadre d'initiatives axées sur les ressources. Le nombre d'ententes de cogestion ou de conseils de gestion des ressources mis en place.	Cela nous permettra de savoir dans quelle mesure nous parvenons à atteindre notre objectif prioritaire consistant à établir des relations avec les Autochtones.	Le point de départ de cette mesure est le protocole d'entente qui a été signés en 2000/01. Un protocole d'entente a été signé avec l'Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN).	Une entente a été signée avec la Poplar River First Nation (entente de gestion des terres). Trois ententes de gestion des ressources régionales avec la Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin sont encore en cours de négociations	L'intérêt en faveur des ententes de cogestion ou de gestion des ressources augmente ainsi que le nombre d'ententes de ce genre.	Il s'agit d'une nouvelle mesure qui démontre que pour le ministère, il est prioritaire de reconstruire des relations avec les Premières nations et les autres collectivités autochtones.

The Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act

The Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act came into effect in April 2007. This law gives employees a clear process for disclosing concerns about significant and serious matters (wrongdoing) in the Manitoba public service, and strengthens protection from reprisal. The Act builds on protections already in place under other statutes, as well as collective bargaining rights, policies, practices and processes in the Manitoba public service.

Wrongdoing under the Act may be: contravention of federal or provincial legislation; an act of omission that endangers public safety, public health or the environment; gross mismanagement; or, knowingly directing or counseling a person to commit a wrongdoing. The Act is not intended to deal with routine operational or administrative matters.

A disclosure made by an employee in good faith, in accordance with the Act, and with a reasonable belief that wrongdoing has been or is about to be committed is considered to be a disclosure under the Act, whether or not the subject matter constitutes wrongdoing. All disclosures receive careful and thorough review to determine if action is required under the Act, and must be reported in a department's annual report in accordance with Section 18 of the Act.

The following is a summary of disclosures received by Manitoba Conservation and Pineland Forest Nursery for fiscal year 2008/09.

Information Required Annually (per Section 18 of The Act)	**Fiscal Year** 2008/09
The number of disclosures received and the number acted on and not acted *Subsection 18(2)(a)*	**NIL**
The number of investigations commenced as a result of a disclosure. *Subsection 18(2)(b)*	**NIL**
In the case of an investigation that results in a finding of wrongdoing, a description of the wrongdoing and any recommendations or corrective actions taken in relation to the wrongdoing, or the reasons why no corrective action was taken. *Subsection 18(2)(c)*	**NIL**

Loi sur les divulgations faites dans l'intérêt public (protection des divulgateurs d'actes répréhensibles)

La *Loi sur les divulgations faites dans l'intérêt public (protection des divulgateurs d'actes répréhensibles)* est entrée en vigueur en avril 2007. Cette loi prévoit une démarche claire à suivre par les employés lorsqu'ils veulent communiquer leurs inquiétudes concernant certains actes répréhensibles graves commis dans la fonction publique, et protège également les divulgateurs contres les représailles. La *Loi* vient s'ajouter à d'autres mesures de protection déjà en place en vertu d'autres lois ainsi qu'aux droits issus d'une négociation collective, de politiques, de pratiques ou de processus en vigueur dans la fonction publique du Manitoba.

Les actes suivants sont considérés comme répréhensibles en vertu de la *Loi* : infractions aux lois fédérales ou provinciales; actions ou omissions causant un risque pour la sécurité ou la santé du public ou pour l'environnement; cas graves de mauvaise gestion ou le fait de sciemment ordonner ou conseiller à une personne de commettre un acte répréhensible. La *Loi* n'a pas pour objet de traiter des questions courantes de fonctionnement ou d'administration.

Une divulgation faite de bonne foi, conformément à la *Loi*, par un employé qui a des motifs raisonnables de croire qu'un acte répréhensible a été commis ou est sur le point de l'être, est considérée une divulgation en vertu de la *Loi*, peu importe si l'objet de la divulgation constitue un acte répréhensible. Toutes les divulgations font l'objet d'un examen attentif et approfondi en vue de déterminer si des mesures s'imposent en vertu de la *Loi*, et elles doivent être signalées dans le rapport annuel du ministère, conformément à l'article 18 de la *Loi*.

Vous trouverez ci-dessous un compte rendu des divulgations reçues par le ministère Conservation Manitoba et [nom des organismes spéciaux relevant de ce ministère] pour l'exercice 2008/09:

Renseignements exigés annuellement (selon l'art. 18 de la *Loi*)	Exercice 2008/09
Le nombre de divulgations reçues et le nombre de divulgations auxquelles il a été donné suite et auxquelles il n'a pas été donné suite. *Alinéa 18(2)a)*	NÉANT
Le nombre d'enquêtes ouvertes à la suite d'une divulgation. *Alinéa 18(2)b)*	NÉANT
Dans le cas où, par suite d'une enquête, il est conclu qu'un acte répréhensible a été commis, la description de l'acte en question ainsi que les recommandations faites ou les mesures correctives prises relativement à cet acte, ou les motifs invoqués pour ne pas en prendre. *Alinéa 18(2)c)*	NÉANT

PUBLICATIONS

Parks and Natural Areas

Interpretive Publications

EASTERN REGION

Atikaki Interpretive Park Map
Whiteshell Interpretive Park Map
McGillivray Falls Self-guiding Trail
Whiteshell River Self-guiding Trail
Falcon Creek Self-guiding Trail and Activities
Pine Point Self-guiding Trail
Forester's Footsteps Self-guiding Trail
The Petroforms of Manitoba
Alf Hole Goose Sanctuary
Nopiming Interpretive Park Map
Walking on Ancient Mountains Self-guiding Trail
Fire of 'Eighty-three Self-guiding Trail
Old Pinawa Self-guiding Trail
St. Malo Interpretive Park Map (bilingual)
Tallgrass Parkland Self-guiding Trail (bilingual)

CENTRAL REGION

Birds Hill Interpretive Park Map
Cedar Bog Self-guiding Trail (summer and winter versions)
Nimowin Self-guiding Trail
Pine Ridge Self-guiding Trail
Duff Roblin Provincial Park (bilingual)
Kennedy House (bilingual)
Grand Beach Interpretive Park Map
Ancient Beach Self-guiding Trail
St. Norbert Interpretive Park Map (bilingual)
Hecla/Grindstone Interpretive Park Map
Hecla Village Self-guiding Trail
Grassy Narrows Marsh Hiking and Cycling Trails
Camp Morton Interpretive Park Map
Pembina Valley Interpretive Park Map
Beaudry Interpretive Park Map (bilingual)

WESTERN REGION

Asessippi Interpretive Park Map
Spruce Woods Interpretive Park Map
Isputinaw Self-guiding Trail
Spirit Sands Self-guiding Trail / Devil's Punch bowl Hiking Trail
Turtle Mountain Interpretive Park Map
Wildlife Self-guiding Trail (Turtle Mountain)
Duck Mountain Interpretive Park Map
Shining Stone Self-guiding Trail
Wapiti Self-guiding Trail
Kettle Stones

NORTH-EASTERN REGION

Paint Lake Interpretive Park Map

NORTH-WESTERN REGION

Grass River Interpretive Park Map
Karst Spring Self-guiding Trail
Clearwater Lake Interpretive Park Map
Caves Self-guiding Trail

Parks Publications

A Mountain Biking Adventure
Beach Safety (bilingual)
Beach Safety for groups (bilingual)
The Camper's Guide (English and French versions)
Canadian Heritage Rivers System - Towards a management plan for the Hayes River - Workshop materials - May 2003
Chitek Lake Park Reserve – Phase 1 public consultation brochure
Duck Mountain Management Plan - Booklet
Fall Camping in Manitoba
Comfort Camping with Yurts and Cabins
Group Use Areas (bilingual)
Hayes River Education Kit - Teachers manual & CDRom
Junior Naturalist and Park Explorer booklets
Manitoba Provincial Parks Guide
Parks Reservation Service
Park Explorer and Junior Naturalist - Children's activity booklets
Regular/Boundary Changes for Provincial Parks – Summary information
Towards a Management Plan for the Hayes River - Summary of workshop comments
Volunteer Campground Host Program
Whiteshell Backcountry Map
Whiteshell Winter Adventures

Corporate Services

Manitoba Conservation: Career Guide

Operations

Manitoba firearm accidents report : hunting and non-hunting
Cottage & Country Fire Safety Checklist
Homeowner's Firesmart Manual

Environmental Operations

Wastewater Homeowners Manual Booklet
Protect Manitoba's Water - Discover the advantages of using a holding tank to manage wastewater

Forestry

Forintek Canada Corporation - Helping Manitoba's Forest Products Industry Add Value and Increase Productivity

Geographic Names

Holm, G., Buchner, A., eds. **A Place of Honour: Manitoba's War Dead Commemorated in Its Geography**. (also available in French)

Sustainable Resource Management

Crown Land Classification Committee. Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans 2004

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

Krause Danielsen, A. and Friesen, C. 2009. Rare Plant Surveys and Stewardship Activities by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre, 2008. Report No. 2008-04. Manitoba Conservation Data Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba. 31 pp.

"Manitoba's Species at Risk – In danger of disappearing" – printed fact sheet and downloadable pdf.

Manitoba 2008 Hunting Guide

Trapping Guide 2008/09

STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTER OF CONSERVATION

The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act, C.C.S.M. chapter C 205
The Crown Lands Act, C.C.S.M. chapter C 340
 [sections 1 and 5.1, clause 7(1)(c), subsection 7.2(1), section 8, subsections 12(2), 13(1) and (2), 13.1(1), sections 19, 22 and 27 to 29; sections 4, 6 and 6.1, clauses 7(1)(a), (b), (d) and (e), subsections 7(2) to (6), sections 7.1, 10, 14, 16 to 18, 21, subsection 23(3), section 24, subsections 25(1) and (2) and sections 26 and 30 to 35 insofar as they relate to the administration of Crown lands not designated as agricultural Crown lands, including setting fees and rents and issuing work permits but excluding other dispositions]
The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act, C.C.S.M. chapter D 12
The Dutch Elm Disease Act, C.C.S.M. chapter D 107
The Ecological Reserves Act, C.C.S.M. chapter E 5
The Endangered Species Act, C.C.S.M. chapter E 111
The Environment Act, C.C.S.M. chapter E 125
The Forest Act, C.C.S.M. chapter F 150
The Forest Health Protection Act, C.C.S.M chapter F 151
The Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation Act, C.C.S.M. chapter H 15
The International Peace Garden Act, C.C.S.M. chapter I 70
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act, C.C.S.M. chapter N 30
 [except as it relates to water and fisheries]
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act Amendment Act, C.C.S.M. chapter N 60
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act Amendment Act, 1963, C.C.S.M. chapter N 70
The Ozone Depleting Substances Act, C.C.S.M. chapter O 80
The Provincial Parks Act, C.C.S.M. chapter P 20
The Plants Pests and Diseases Act, C.C.S.M. chapter P 90
 [that portion of clause 16(c) that pertains to arborists and clause 16(i)]
The Polar Bear Protection Act, C.C.S.M chapter P 94
The High-Level Radioactive Waste Act, C.C.S.M. chapter R 10
The Resource Tourism Operators Act, C.C.S.M. chapter R 119.5
The Surveys Act, C.C.S.M. chapter S 240
 [Part II]
The Sustainable Development Act, C.C.S.M. chapter S 270
 [except the Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund of the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund]
The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 40
The Wildfires Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 128
The Wildlife Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 130
 [except that portion of clause 89(e) that applies to compensation for damage to crops caused by wildlife as it pertains to big game and migratory waterfowl]
The Wild Rice Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 140

As per Schedule "E", Order in Council No. 323/2008